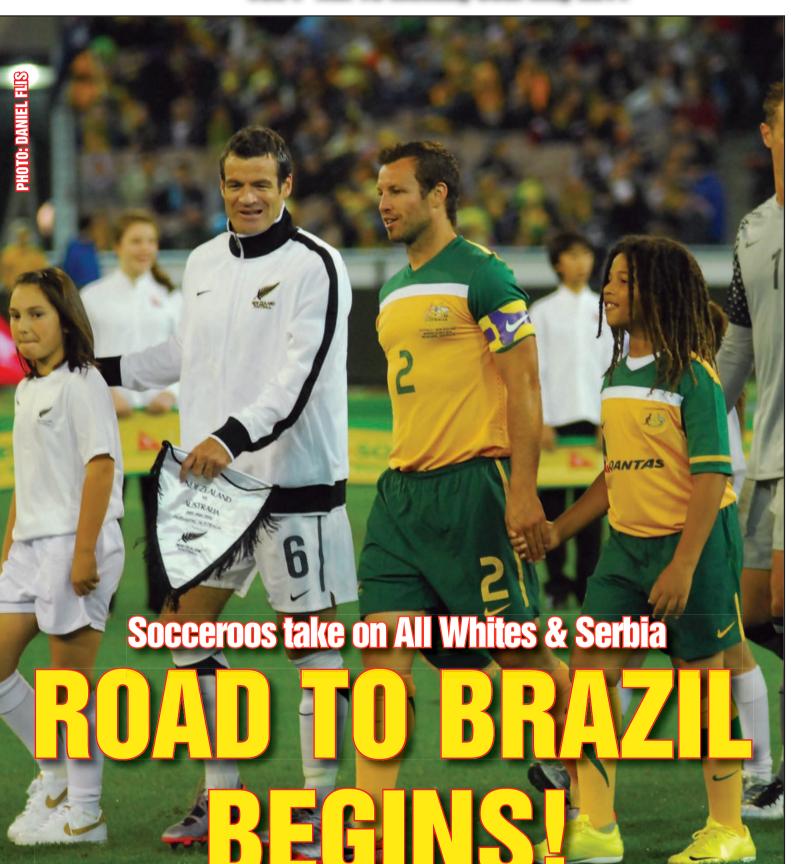
Australia's Favourite Football Fanzine And Even Bigger In Catalonia!





Vol. 7 No. 15 Monday 30th May 2011































Messi-merising Barca!

By Matthew Galea

Barcelona took their reputation to new heights with a stunning 3-1 victory over Manchester United at Wembley to be crowned European champions.

Goals from Pedro, Lionel Messi and David Villa gave Pep Guardiola's side the Champions League trophy, and although Wayne Rooney replied for United there was absolutely no doubt the Catalans deserved their victory, just as they did when they beat Sir Alex Ferguson's side in Rome two years ago.

United provided energy, determination and passion - typified when Rooney equalised Pedro's 27thminute opener by making it 1-1 seven minutes later.

But Barca dominated most of the match with their wonderful passing football and scored goals of true quality.

Messi, almost unanimously hailed as the world's best player, made it 2-1 with an individual effort from the edge of the box after 54 minutes before Villa's impudent chip left Edwin van der Sar stranded in his last game for United before

It was a bitter pill for Ferguson's side to swallow as they tried to win the trophy for the fourth time - but they do have the consolation of having lost to a truly great side.



Messi was in mesmerising form and tilted the trophy in Barcelona's favour with the second goal.

Ferguson, as usual, included a surprise in his selection - not only leaving out Dimitar Berbatov in favour of Javier Hernandez but opting to choose Michael Owen ahead of the Bulgarian on the bench as

But Barcelona's decision to omit captain Carles Puyol, who has been struggling with a knee injury, and play Javier Mascherano at centreback caused just as big a stir.

Those questions hardly mattered once the match began, however, as both sides served up a stunning spectacle of attacking and competitive football.

The clash of styles was clear -United's athleticism, tenacity and direct threat against Barca's legendary beautiful football steeled by the most impressive pressing game the sport has seen.

The result was a fascinating contest that began with United on top in the early stages but saw Barca mesmerise their opponents with intricate passing before taking the lead on 27 minutes.

Striker Pedro, not considered one of the Catalan club's superstars, was the man who finished it effortlessly by steering a side-footed shot past van der Sar at his near post.

United, however, are as wellknown for their indomitable spirit as Barca are for their sweet interplay - and Ferguson's men levelled

Eric Abidal holds aloft barca's third Champions League title in 5 years.

the scores after 34 minutes when Rooney's determination brought them back in the game.

The striker started and finished the move, playing a one-two with veteran Ryan Giggs before steering a curling and unerring effort into the top corner of Victor Valdes' net.

United knew, however, their job was not over and Barca quickly reasserted themselves in the second half, creating half-chances for Alves and Messi before the talismanic Argentine made it 2-1 in the 54th

There didn't seem much on when Andres Iniesta casually laid the ball off to his team-mate - but Messi jinked instantly into action, beating three players with one touch and whipping home a left-footed shot that was past van der Sar before the Dutchman could even blink

The United keeper denied Messi a second in the 63rd minute and flung himself to keep out a curling effort from Xavi but you could see another goal was coming and it was provided by Villa in spectacu-

The Spaniard, inside the area, took time to trap the ball in a crowded penalty box before chipping a shot high into the right-hand corner with almost no backlift.

It was a fitting end to a wonderful final - one that ended with deserved winners

Group C

Manchester United Valencia CF Rangers FC

Man. United 0-0 Rangers FC Valencia CF 0-1 Man. United Man. United 1-0 Bursaspor Bursaspor 0-3 Man. Unitd Rangers FC 0-1 Man. United Man. United 1-1 Valencia CF

Group D

Barcelona FC København

6 3 1 2 7 5 2 10 6 1 3 2 2 4 -2 6 Barcelona 5-1 Panathinaikos

6 4 2 0 7 1 6 14 6 3 2 1 15 4 11 11 6 1 3 2 3 6 -3 6

6 0 1 5 2 16 -14 1

Rubin Kazan 1-1 Barcelona Barcelona 2-0 FC København FC København 1-1 Barcelona Panathinaikos 0-3 **Barcelon**a **Barcelona** 2-0 Rubin Kazan

Round of 16 Marseille 0-0 Man. United Man. United 2-1Marseille (Agg. Man. United wins 2-1)

Arsenal 2-1 Barcelona Barcelona 3-1 Arsenal (Agg. Barcelona wins 4-3)

Quarter Finals Chelsea 0-1 Man. United Man. United 2-1Chelsea (Agg. Man United wins 3-1)

Barcelona 5-1 Shakhtar Donetsk Shakhtar Donetsk 0-1 Barcelona (Agg. Barcelona wins 6-1)

Schalke 04 0-2 Man. United Man. United 4-1 FC Schalke 04 (Agg. Man. United wins 6-1)

Real Madrid 0-2 Barcelona Barcelona 1-1 Real Madrid (Agg. Barcelona wins 3-1)

Visca Barca!

By Francis Fields

Playing on a big stage takes preparation, rest, calm nerves and motivation, structure in formation, but again plenty of motivation and hunger.

When Sir Alex took Aberdeen in the 80's to an unprecedented European Cup final along with his vast knowledge in applied psychology, he knew about risk-taking. Pep Guardiola had stepped on the

Wembley pitch in 1992 lifting the trophy with that stunning drive from Dutchman Ronald Koeman whilst on the backdrop of words surrounding the Catalan capital about his continuity from club maestro Johan Cruyff.

Not the ideal pre-match talk needed prior to such an event with 2012 contracts and the like. Pure distraction and petty gossip from the fans too yet the flying Dutchman is loyal to the philosophy and Pep is loyal to that same structure that keeps driving him to succeed for more.

With David Villa also not scoring and on a drought, the drama unfolded in front a packed to capacity crowd, colourful and excited. Not to mention the millions worldwide glued to their television sets.

And so the Red Devils began pressing and making life difficult for the Blaugrana. A skeptic and speculative 4-4-1-1 structure left many eye-brows shaky.

Ryan Giggs as centre left half alongside Michael Carrick leaving Paul Scholes on the bench was indeed unorthodox. Ecuadorean Antonio Valencia kicked, hassles and tackled far too much he was very generously lucky to have stayed on the pitch.

Against a Barcelona midfield also hyped up about stardom nevertheless who complete passes in shapes, along the ground, to each other's feet and not just frontal but squarely to the side, Manchester United kept piling pressure onto the twentieth minute mark and then surrender. Waiting and holding sustained

possession is desperate and unnecessary, at Wembley of all night. For a slow, defensive duo in Gerard Piquè and Javier Mascherano lifting their heads, controlling their tempo to the 'compas' of an ole flamenco composition or a bull fighter, even backpasses were kept executed perfectly as three-quarters of the pitch were given away. Xavi kept moving into space without the ball, Andrés Iniesta tried incessantly to the flanks, down the middle for "the flea" Messi from provincial Rosario back in the cattle-rich land of Argentina to sweep the ball back

with his crafty feet and lightning speed to find "Peter Pan" Pedro and David "El Guaje" Villa. Even Husain Bolt present at the iconic stadium must have envied. No player was hooked along Rio Ferdinand and Nemanja Vidic to bring the ball onto the speedy flanks of Park Ji-Sung for instance. They just waited. Then Edwin van der Sar kept them in

the match until the deadlock broke

from the pacey Canarian as Pedro

placed the ball feigning to the left

and slotting to the right.

That moment, seven minutes it took for a Manchester United side to react and in fact, they should have kept that way. The strategic equaliser that left the Catalans working their heads and working even harder from Wayne Rooney must have enabled a change into the conservative formation from

the Scot Nani was ignored, so was Paul Scholes, Javier Hernandez was only a shadow as his spirit was probably back in Guadalajara and not at Wembley whilst Rooney was left played playing third wheel up front, running around on his own as the sometimes solid but sometimes shaky defensive pair in Piquè and Mascherano outnumbering him time and time again. Not having a classic number ten waiving his magic wand and



Wayne Rooney huffed and puffed and even pulled a rabbit out of his hat, but it just wasn't to be his night.

insisting on a lottery gamble with long balls and crosses down the wings was not going to be variable solution or formula.

A great match for the neutral, for Australian football family members to observe the variations in style. To learn how to elegantly keep and hold the ball, touch and move into space, shoot at goal and keep holding possession, not to mention time.

Barely did you see a Barcelona troop aggressively grinding his teeth solely focused on battling. They waved the ball like artisans. Sergi Busquets was instrumental in this. Back in goals, Victor Valdes came out of his goal-area to punch away and comfortably sort his resources with the ball on his feet.

The English aristocrats still had Michael Owen on the bench and Owen Hargreaves yet a stubborn

and red-faced, nervous looking Ferguson made too little changes, too late with two goals in a mountain to climb at 3-1.

A night to reminisce Catalan pride, to sink Jose Mourinho's despot arrogance, to prove the numerous Madrid-based media tabloids wrong and outclass, even embarass the English champions' Red Devilish attitude on UEFA's night of nights.

Even president Michel Platini images was amused by the playfulness of little Lionel when handling him the medal. Pep Guardiola's approach to the final was selfadmittedly more prepared than Rome back on the 27th of the mad month of May in 2009 and Eric Abidal a true warrior overcoming his ill-liver to fittingly hoist the trophy aloft from a memorable

UCL Final Details

Champions League Final Barcelona 3-1 Man Utd Saturday, 28 May 2011 Ref. V Kassai Wembley Stadium, London

Barcelona:

Valdes, Daniel (Puyol 88), Pique, Abidal, Xavi, Iniesta, Mascherano, Busquets, Villa (Keita 86), Messi, Pedrito (Afellay 90+2) Goals: Pedrito 27, Messi 54, Villa 69 Yellow cards: Valdes, Daniel

Substitutes: Olazabal, Puyol, Adriano Correia, Keita, Afellay, Thiago, Bojan

Man Utd:

Van der Sar, Evra, Ferdinand, Vidic, Fabio Da Silva (Nani 69), Giggs, Park Ji-Sung, Carrick (Scholes 76), Valencia, Rooney, Goals: Rooney 34

Substitutes: Kuszczak, Smalling, Anderson, Nani, Scholes, Fletcher, Owen

Yellow cards: Carrick, Valencia

Possession: Barca - 68% Man U - 32%

Attempts on target: Barca - 13 Man U - 1

Barca - 6M Man U - 0

Fouls: Man U - 16

those rich people EXCLUSIVE, YES. EXPENSIVE? NO. DON'T WANT YOU TO HAVE www.adriatic.com.au

The Road to Brazil starts here!

By Peter Simcox

The Socceroos take on New Zealand, in the first part of an international double header in June for Holger Osieck's side, at the Adelaide Oval on Sunday June 5th (5:30pm AEST).

Osieck has selected a strong squad for the games against the All-Whites and Serbia (June 7th), including twelve of the players that were part of the squad that recently defeated Germany 2-1 in an international friendly in Monchengladbach. He has also recalled Melbourne Victory striker Archie Thompson, South Australian James Troisi, Dario Vidosic, Rhys Williams and Michael Zullo.

"There are some players there to show their potential and see if they are up to the standards of the Socceroos," said Osieck. "I think the product is here. I hope the boys will meet our expectations.

"It is great for them show them what they can do for our team."

Tim Cahill, David Carney, Harry Kewell and Mark Schwarzer were unavailable for selection due to injury concerns and Osieck believes it's best for them to miss the game and rest up after a long season.

"Tim carried a very niggling injury during the Asian Cup tournament," he said. "I said to him in early March: 'Don't worry, I won't consider you for these games to fully recover. We need



Brett Holman scores the winner when the Trans Tasman rivals previously met in their last hit-out prior to departing for the World Cup finals in South Africa 2010. Photos: DANIEL FLIS

you for the qualifying games."

"Mark needs a groin operation which was not foreseeable which is not good for him. But it gives us the opportunity for the other goalkeepers to show what they can do.

"I am in permanent contact with Harry and I had him on the original list but he missed out in a couple of games.

"He came back and played but he was substituted in his last game at half time. I think it was a very honest discussion we had. I had the feeling that he did not really feel comfortable about his actual performance level. That is the reason why I left him out.

"Carney is going to be out longterm. It's going to be a couple of months until he can return. That is a very negative one. He has scored some good goals. I consider him a good player for

their first experience of living

the team."

In the absents of Schwarzer, Adam Federici, Mitchell Langerak and Nathan Coe will battle it out for a starting berth in goal, while WA born Rhys Williams makes his long awaited return to the Qantas Socceroos following a successful recovery from a groin injury that ruled him out for a large part of the past 12 months for his English Championship side

Middlesbrough.

The All Whites will play Mexico in Denver on the 2nd June, and have lost the services or talented duo Tommy Smith and Marco Rojas for the game, but both are hopeful to be fit to meet the Socceroos. Ricki Herbert's side will be missing Blackburn Rovers defender Ryan Nelsen, Leo Bertos , Jeremy Christie and Plymouth Argyle striker Rory Fallon due to injuries.

Match Details

Socceroos v New Zealand Adelaide Oval, Adelaide, South Australia Sunday 5 June 2011 KO 5:00pm ACST (5:30pm AEST)

Gates Open – 3:00pm ACS

Socceroos Squad

Alex BROSQUE, GK Nathan COE, GK Mitchell LANGERAK, GK Adam FEDERICI Brett EMERTON, , Brett HOLMAN , Mile JEDINAK, Josh KENNEDY, Neil KILKENNY, Robbie KRUSE Jonathan McKAIN, Matthew McKAY, Mark MILLIGAN, Lucas NEILL, Sasa OGNENOVSKI, Matthew SPIRANOVIC Archie THOMPSON, James TROISI, Carl VALERI, Dario VIDOSIC, Rhys WILLIAMS, Luke WILKSHIRE, Michael 71 III O

All Whites Squad

GK Jake GLEESON, GK Glen MOSS, GK Mark PASTON, Andrew BOYENS, Michael BOXALL, Michael FITZGER-ALD, Tony LOCHHEAD, Winston REID, Ben SIGMUND, Tommy SMITH, Ivan VICELICH, Jeremy BROCKIE, Tim BROWN, Aaron CLAPHAM, Simon ELLIOTT, David MULLIGAN, Michael McGLINCHEY, Marco ROJAS, Kosta BARBAROUSES, Craig HENDERSON, Chris KILLEN, Shane SMELTZ, Chris WOOD

It will be the 59th game between the arch rivals since their first in 1922 at Dunedin. Since then, the Socceroos hold the edge with 37 wins compared to the All-Whites 10 with 11 draws. The last time these teams met was last year prior to the 2010 World Cup when the Socceroos came from a goal down to eventually win 2-1 at the MCG.

12 GISS players sign in Europe

By Louise Brooks

sIn an extraordinary burst of achievements for not one but twelve young Melbourne footballers' dreams of becoming professional soccer players are coming true as these graduates of the Genova International School of Soccer (GENOVA ISS) and junior Melbourne Phoenix Club, will finish the 2011 European season signed by a range of high level teams including Division 1 Hungary Club Kaposvar Rakoczi; Italian Serie B teams Vicenza Calcio and Portogruaro, and Trento Calcio Serie D.

GENOVA ISS Director, Morris Pagniello, who personally places all the boys, is pleased with the result: "Players work hard to develop their skills. Positions in these teams are hard fought for places so our boys can be pleased with their well deserved achievements. Even though these boys were specially selected from our Australian and Canadian campuses when they first arrived in Italy they still had a long way, to go in spite of the many long hours of training back home, they have stuck with it and we are proud of their success to date." It has taken most of the boys

graft overseas in the residential program, beefing up their junior training and experience in Australian to step up to the broadly much higher European benchmark and then waiting to be invited to trial.

Pagniello organises high level matches against Serie A, B, C, and D teams where his players not only gain invaluable match experience but can also be review by invited scouts. Trials have included exciting, and valuable experiences playing in the UK, Italy, Turkey, Hungary and France.

In fact GENOVA ISS have signed a total of 35 players this season including players from Sydney, New Zealand and its Canadian campus but it is particularly proud of its achievements with these 12 players who have been developed over a four year period by GENOVA ISS's highly qualified and professional coaches at GENOVA's Melbourne campus.

The Melbourne GENOVA ISS campus rolls out a more or less daily regime (in contrast to most Clubs' once a week training). The boys then progressed to GENOVA's residential player placement program in Italy. The program acts as a staging post where boys get even more focussed training, experience playing top flight teams and opportunities to trial and be placed in teams across Europe.

Pagniello set up both his Melbourne training program and then the overseas player placement program because he himself has first-hand experience of just how difficult it is for an individual Australian player to establish themselves at a professional level in Europe.

He comments: "It is a huge leap for a young player to combine

away from home with having to find accommodation and limited work, while sustaining the required levels of training and fitness, not to mention the daunting task of trying find a suitable Club or get scouted and eventually make the opportunity to trial. Our program manages these things for them - they get comfortable and safe accommodation with 3 nutritious meals a day and great mentoring and support from all our staff. On top of that they then get intensive, expert coaching and train every day, including stints in the gym and the pool, getting them totally fit to trial and succeed. This all takes place against the idyllic back drop of the mountains of North Italy! Even with all the bonuses of Pagniello's program the players still often have to grapple with the challenges of their chosen overseas pathway. The weather and culture can seem very different (boys have language lessons on a regular basis and some also choose to continue with limited distance education studies), homesickness can be an issue though the team environment helps overcome that but a totally seamless transition for everyone is rare as trials do not always guarantee a place and when boys have signed then they need to be endlessly patient as paperwork, passports and visas, and then inevitably injuries may frustrate their progress.

"Five years ago, we put our faith in AS Roma's approach to youth

development as the template for our coaches in Melbourne and Canada. World class players like Totti, De Rossi, Aquilani and Perrotta are testament to the success of their system and we are now seeing the success of this approach from our own players. We have built on the strength of our links with AS Roma, ensuring that our junior players benefit from training with a range of different international coaches, not just from AS Roma but other Sirie A and B clubs Totti's youth coach, Maurizio

(Ramon) Turone, who has visited us regularly to run soccer clinics all over Australia. Last month we were visited by Portogruaro's (Serie B) Director, Walter Ragni and recently we hosted the Director of Vicenza Calcio (Serie B),

Frabrizio De Poli.
Finally Pagniello adds: "Of course not all boys want to go overseas and our intensive training sets them up to do well at home in Australia too. We currently have several juniors trailing for Melbourne Hearts and GENOVA ISS graduates playing professionally in Australia."

Melbourne Boys Playing With European Clubs

Serie B, Portogruaro Lovrick, Calvin, 18, Pirano, Mario, 18, Vartarci, Chris, 18,

Serie B, Vicenza Calcio Carter, Anthony, 17, Markelis, Theo, 19, Papagaris, James, 16, Paraskevas, Zac, 16, Liam Graham (New Zealand)

Serie D, Trento Calcio Centofani, Adam, 19 Modafarri, Nick, 19, (Franco Damiano and Marcel De Bellis – ex-GENOVA ISS Canada)

Hungarian 1st division team Kaposvari Rakoczi fc Brooks, Oscar, 19, Turner, Jack, 18, (also Jurica Grlic and Marco Banic Sydney)

Hungarian 1st division team Ferencvárosi tc Tansel, Kerim, 18,

goal Weekly

Ben gives Cup Buckley's chance



5th Round Details

Tue 31 May 11 7:30PM

Melb Knights v North Sunshine Eagles

Wed 1 Jun 11 8.15PM

Oakleigh Cannons v Pascoe Vale

South Melbourne v Port Melbour

Wed 8 Jun 11 7:30PM

Wed 8 Jun 11 7:30PM Springvale WE v Malvern Citv

Wed 8 Jun 11 7:30PM Ballarat Red Devils v St Albans Saints

Wed 8 Jun 11 7:30PM

Dandenong City v D'nong Thunder

Thu 9 Jun 11 7:30PM FC Bulleen Lions v Northcote City

Wed 8 Jun 11 7:30PM

Preston Lions v Heidelberg Utd

Wed 8 Jun 11 7:30PM Southern Stars v Bentleigh Greens

Wed 8 Jun 11 7:30PM Green Gully v Sunshine George Cross

Sat 11 Jun 11 3:00PM

FC Clifton Hill v Cobram Victory

Sat 11 Jun 11 1:00PM Hume City v Moreland City

Sun 12 Jun 11 1300PM
Preston Lions v Heidelberg United

By Robert Di Fabio

Football Federation Australia Chief Executive Ben Buckley came under vigorous siege at the recent Fan Forum in Sydney. The event was organised by Lee Sutherland, who conducts the group Footy Fans Down Under. The occasion joined a panel of experts and SBS who broadcasted the affair.

The night encompassed many issues surrounding the landscape of the Australian football environment, however it was Ben Buckley's outlook on the Mirabella Cup which have made many fans distressed and outraged from the Victorian state.

Buckley had this to say on the FFA's recent decision to discontinue A-League outfits- Melbourne Victory and Melbourne Heart from participating in the inaugural Mirabella Cup.

"We aspire to have a national cup competition as soon as possible. Our timeline is currently starting next year in 2012. We are all excited by it. We all understand it will be a great tool to help us connect down through the various levels of the game. Having said that, we don't want to confuse the cup competition with a whole series of state competitions that include the A-League clubs and that's why the decision was taken. I know there's a lot of people that don't support that but we are all excited about getting the cup competition right from next year on. We don't want to launch the A-League clubs into a number of state competitions that will ultimately confuse the public. I know there are some people in Victoria were disappointed about that but we are only 12 months



Ben Buckley came under fire at the Fans Forum in Sydney last week.

away," Buckley said.

There are so many faults in Buckley's speech; it's difficult to know where to begin.

Buckley's assessment of the Mirabella Cup further establishes the indifference for grassroots football. When the Mirabella Cup was formally announced in February the FFA already envisaged a potential FFA Cup competition commencing next year and having the finale on Australia Day in 2013. If the FFA felt the Mirabella Cup would hollow the image of the hypothetical FFA Cup competition then why give the FFV, major sponsor Joe Mirabella, clubs and fans the hallucination of facing the A-League clubs? It's selfish on the FFA's behalf in many aspects.

The FFA has often stated its endeavour to build and grow a true football culture within our Australian sporting landscape, reminiscent of

what we envisage overseas in Europe. Abroad, clubs often compete in more than one cup competition. We only need to glance at England, the successful EPL competition runs simultaneously with the prestigious FA Cup and Carling Cup competition. If the FFA felt that the inclusion of the Mirabella Cup would halt the progress and image of the FFA Cup, then why include the A-League outfits when the competition was announced? It doesn't make any sense whatsoever and further illustrates the incapability within the FFA to run their business dealing in a sophisticated, structured and coherent manner. Using the lame excuse- the pub-

lic will be confused if clubs are competing in more than one cup competition is offensive to football followers and is an extremely poor justification for trying to cover up the faults within the head governing body. Treating fans with ill diligence and in the vein of an uneducated horde of people will surely not give football followers confidence and assurance in what the FFA are trying to achieve.

The FFA has assured their plan to improve fan engagement by connecting with community clubs and building the bridge between the A-League outfits and the local grassroots district. Although, dismal explanation to the public will only further alienate fans from the A-League competition and additionally plant supporters offside with the FFA. If fans are treated with intelligence and respect then many supporters will return the favour towards the head governing body.

In many respects, the Mirabella Cup was a perfect opportunity to test the waters before the proposed FFA Cup competition is brought to life. If the FFA didn't want the interference of the Melbourne based A-League clubs in the Mirabella Cup next year, then that's another story in itself. But to prohibit the clubs from taking their places during the competition demonstrates a lack of respect for the FFV and ruins the integrity of the tournament. With the exclusion of the A-League outfits, there are now six teams at the Quarter-Final stage. The FFV will unfortunately need to make amendments at the penultimate stage of the cup.

As the A-League is managed on a franchised basis, clubs have little say in what they can and can't do. It's an unfortunate situation, in an ideal world clubs would be able to hold more accountability on their own business affairs.

It's quite simple, the FFA needs to let A-League clubs have some type of independence and let them build their own dynasty. If the Melbourne based clubs- Victory and Heart were happy to compete in the Mirabella Cup and help promote and build football within Victoria, then they should be permitted to do so. It's for this very reason as to why many football fans feel aggravated and disheartened by the FFA's dealings with the local communities

Buckley needs to hold accountability and take more of a responsibility for his business dealings. Yes, we all knew the FFA wanted a national cup competition in the next year, that's all well and good. Nevertheless, why couldn't the FFV try help their own brand by establishing a successful cup competition of their own? After all, the promotion of grass roots football is a high priority for the governing body.

Young Socceroos defeat Germany 1-0 in first match of European tour

The Qantas Young Socceroos have begun their European tour with a hard fought 1-0 victory over the German U-19 National team in Kamen-Kaiserau, Germany.

Going into the match, Qantas Young Socceroos Head Coach Jan Versleijen gave international starting debuts to Corey Gameiro, Jake Barker-Daish and Jason Geria with Bernie Ibini-Isei making his debut as a second half substitute.

The first half saw Germany dominate possession with the Qantas Young Socceroos gaining control later in the half. Both teams had early chances to open the scoring, but solid defending from each side held. Just before half-time, Qantas Young Socceroos defender Jason Geria carried the ball through the middle of the field and played a long ball to Rhyan Grant down the ride side. Grant

then delivered a great cross into the box for Kofi Danning to run onto at the far post. Danning then hit a perfectly timed volleyed past the German goalkeeper to score what was the match winning goal. Both teams shared possession throughout the second half, but no chances from either team were of any threat and the Qantas Young Socceroos were able to hold on for a morale boosting victory.

Qantas Young Socceroos Head Coach Jan Versleijen was pleased with his squads first performance of the European tour. "It's always good to start a tour with a win and to beat Germany on their home soil only, a month or so after the Socceroos also beat them in Germany, is a great result.

"This was our first international match since the Asian U-19 Championships last November, so it was a great check for me to see if some of these players are good enough to play at this

"It was also a challenge for the team to identify the main areas we need to work on leading into Colombia. The defending was reasonable to good but we still had too many turnovers in the midfield playing teams of this level.

"The goal came from a good combination of passes and a great finish by Kofi Danning so that was pleasing," concluded Versleijen.

The Qantas Young Socceroos will now compete in the Terborg Tournament in the Netherlands from 3-5 June. The Terborg Tournament, which is in its 32nd edition, is a Youth team competition that is played with matches in a modified format of 2 x 20 minutes halves. The youth teams competing this

year alongside the Qantas Young Socceroos include Ajax Amsterdam (Netherlands), PSV Eindhoven (Netherlands), FC Twente Enschede (Netherlands), De Graafschap Doetinchem (Netherlands), Boca Juniors (Argentina), Botafogo (Brazil), Cruzeiro (Brazil), Atlas Guadalajara (Mexico) and Unistar Soccer Academy (Ghana).

Match Details Germany U-19 National Team

Qantas Young Socceroos 1 (Kofi Danning 44') Friday, 27 May 2011 Sportcentrum, Kamen-Kaiserau, Germany

Qantas Young Socceroos line up: Mark Birighitti (gk), Jason Geria (Sam Gallagher 74'), Dylan McGowan, Trent Sainsbury, Marc Warren



Sydney FC's Kofi Danning scored the winner for the Young Socceroos against Germany. Photo: GEOFF JONES

(Jason Davidson 80'), Terry Antonis, Kofi Danning (Bernie Ibini-Isei 45'), Rhyan Grant, Mustafa Amini (Steven Lustica 74'), Jake Barker-Daish, Corey Gameiro (Matthew Fletcher

Substitutes Not Used: Matt Acton (gk), Kearyn Baccus, Petar Franjic, Brendan Hamill, Josip Konyit, George Lambadaridis, Massimo Luongo

WANT TO GO TO ITALY FOR 18+ TOUR, VERONA TRIALS 17-30 July 18+ TOUR, VERONA

6 GAMES, 12 DAYS AGAINST SERIE A-D TEAMS
SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

www.issgenova.com to see past successful trialists



VPL goal scoring idol Trent Rixon is having a stellar period with Northcote City. A spectacular season last year saw Trent grace the honour of being crowned the illustrious Golden Boot winner. The boy who grew up initially playing Aussie Rules, has come a long way since representing NSW at youth level. Trent Rixon's status within Victorian football is growing in leaps and bounds, his goal scoring aptitude and ability to consistently play a high calibre of football has made him into one of the most revered players within Victorian football. Trent's ambitions to win an A-League contract is still a high priority; however his passion and admiration for the game he worships is what makes Trent a unique character within the game.

Q.How are things travelling down at Northcote City?

The last 8 games including the Mirabella Cup we've been undefeated. We lost to Oakleigh and were probably a bit unlucky. Apart from that there are a lot of positive signs, sitting 6th on the table coming up againt St Albans and Richmond. So we're going in with much confidence.

Q.You seem to be a goal scoring machine, winning the VPL golden boot last season and currently on 8 thus far this season. Do you feel you're in career best form? What do you put your good run of form down to?

I started off pretty slow actually. I missed a few games earlier in the year. I've probably only been playing at 80%. In regards to scoring goals, the boys behind the scenes are helping to set them up and I'm just there making the runs and I guess it comes to good fortune in the end. Someone needs to be there to put them away and I've put my hand up to do the job.

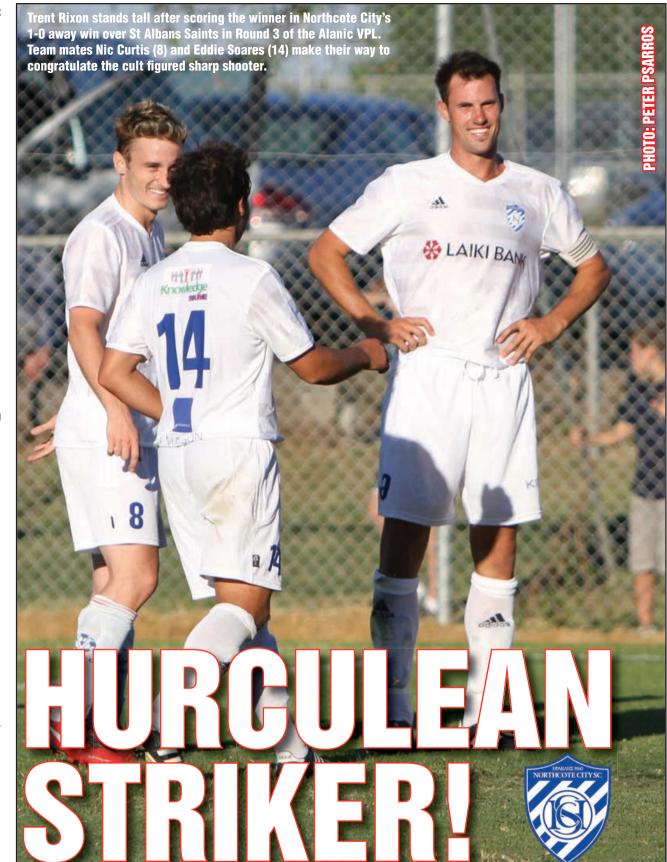
Q. Have you been contacted by any A-League clubs recently?

Not recently, last year I went to Brisbane for a two week trial. Over New Year's I trained with Perth Glory, that wasn't a trial though. But I haven't had any other contact with an A-League club of late.

Q. Do you know why A-League clubs haven't shown a key interest for your services?

I'm not sure to be honest. I look at it in their perspective as well. I'm 26 years old, they could go for someone like me who could be there for a few years or could develop a younger player or even better go overseas and find a bigger striker. I'm doing my thing by scoring goals on the pitch. But I'm not sure if it's something they don't see in my, I'm not really sure.

Q. If A-League clubs continue to keep snubbing you, do you feel a move overseas to Asia is imminent?



I've had a chat to a couple of blokes who have wanted me to go to Asia. There's a market over there for a player like myself who's a big striker or centre forward. I'm happy what I'm doing now but if something arises I'll look into it and see what happens. I'm happy at Northcote now, but who knows what can come around the corner in football.

Q. How do you rate the current standard of the VPL? In order to improve the league, what do you believe needs to be implemented better?

It's one of the biggest leagues in Australia for semi-professional footballers. Many boys from England and Ireland come over to play in it (VPL). The league is strong, there are many boys going from the VPL towards the A-League. In order to improve the league I'm not exactly sure. They (FFV) need to sit down with the clubs together and go through the policies like the

Q. Would you prefer to play the VPL season in alignment with the A-League (during the warmer months) or do you prefer the tradition winter period?

Growing up I've always played in the winter period. It would a tough one because if it changed then it would probably interfere with a lot of other codes. Of course it would probably be a lot better if it did happen. But at the moment I'm happy with the way it is now, I guess because I'm used to it.

Q. Are you enjoying the allure of the innovative Mirabella Cup?

It's not a bad competition I think. We've play one game so far. It sort of just breaks it up. Some of the boys that aren't getting much of a run during the year or boys coming back from injury it's always good to get a bit of game time under their belt. We've used so far in the way, but in saying that it's still a strong cup. It's (cup) all through Victoria, so it's bringing everyone together which is good.



Going for gold: Trent with the 2010 Golden Boot Award at the FFV Gold Medal night. Photo: PETER PSARROS.

Q. As an adolescent where did you commence your football trade? Did you always want to be a striker?

To be honest I stated off playing Aussie Rules when I was a young boy. Then one of my mates brought me over to start playing football when I was about 9. I started off as a striker when I was a young boy. Then when I played for the NSW state team I played out wide right, I wasn't such a tall boy back then. When I got to around 15 or 16 years old I shot up out of knowhere and from there I went up front and I haven't looked back. I started banging in some goals; it's actually a good little spot I like it.

Q. Who was your inspiration growing up?

Well obviously my family were a big influence when growing up along with my mates. Just watching Australian in the World Cup when we play Iran (1997 WCQ) and the two recent World Cups. I've always liked the sport and it has just grown on me.

Q. What has been the most memorable moment in your football career?

I don't really have one instance I suppose. Winning the Golden Boot (VPL top goal scorer) last year was a good achievement. Top goal scorer after 22 rounds, playing some good football against good strikers in Victoria.

Q. What do you aspire to achieve within the next few years?

I'm happy doing what I'm doing, if an A-League team comes in or an opportunity arrises in Asia of course I'd look into it. I'm happy scoring goals, the last four or five years I've been scoring around a goal a game on average so I can't really do much more.

Q. After your playing career comes to a closure, do you still want to be involved in football from a coaching perspective?

I haven't really looked into it that far, if I have little kids I'd love to have a kick and run around with them. Even senior coaching, I think that would be a good role. I'm good mates with Peter Tsolakis (Northcote City Head Coach), I've seen how his transformed from a good player to a higher ranked coach and doing well. Obviously it's a lot of hard work and commitment but at the end of the day if I want to do it I'll put my hand up and have a go.

Q. Finally, what advice would you give to aspiring footballers?

Practice, practice, practice. If you want to do something put your mind to it and give it 100 per-cent, there's no point just going through the motions. If you want something that bad, make it happen.

Thank you for your time Trent and best of luck for the remainder of the season and beyond.



ESPANA

Pepe Lopez

At the beginning of this month of May, it looked an ominous sign that Jose Mourinho's days at Real Madrid might have been numbered.

Politics oftens works in upredictable ways, this has been no exception. To Jose's rescue behind the scenes, ex-player Zinedine Zidane had not only spoken in support of Mourinho, but is now set to become Real Madrid's new "Director of Sport". Zidane will replace Jorge Valdano, who had reportedly clashed many times with Jose Mourinho. Real president Florentino Perez, had publicly criticised Jose Mourinho after the infamous Champions League semi-final post-match press conference, but has since been swayed by the will of the club's supporters in delivering Jose, not only a future, but a greater influence of the club.

One person who wants to be at Real Madrid, but will cause a inner city civil war if he does is Sergio "Kun" Aguero. The son in law of Diego Maradona, "Kun" got the nickname of from his grandparents who stated their grandchild resembled a Japanese cartoon character. Kun won the 2007 Under 20 World Cup with Argentina, he was the captain, the golden boot winner and also voted best player of the tournament. In 2008, he helped Argentina win the Olympic Gold

Balkan

Alex Milic

Trabzonspor and National Team

player Drago Gabric was in-

volved in a car accident on Thurs-

day. The 8 year suffered severe

injuries but thankfully awakened

from his coma over the weekend.

While Gabric is slowly recover-

ing the same cannot be said for

Serbian Milan Opsesnica who

died following a car accident on

Thursday in Serbia. The 2 year

old played in the Serbian First

Division for Kolubara and was

a one time Vojvodina and Lodz

The National Team takes on Geor-

gia in a Euro 2012 Qualifier to be

played at Hajduk Split's Poljud

Stadium. Slaven Bilic's men suf-

fered a huge set back in Tbilisi los-

ing 1:0 so the match in Split is vital

for Croatia's Euro 2012 prospects.

"We do have problems that's ob-

vious, there have been problems

since Eduardo broke his leg, some-

one is always missing. The disap-

pointment of not qualifying for

the World Cup has given us the

privilege to try out some new play-

ers and make a long-list of players

that will always be in the running

for a first team spot, so that's why

this situation with injury problems

will help us. We do have a handi-

cap because of these injuries and

suspensions but we are capable of

compensating this with our qual-

ity. If things stay as they are at

player.

Mad Mad Madrid



No deal? Jose Mourinho could already be out on his way from Real Madrid.

Medal, by scoring 2 goals in the 3-0 semi-final win against Brazil. So why does Kun want to leave Atleti? The 23 year old declares it is not for the money, (which is true, Atleti are offering Kun 9 million Euro per season, and if he signed for Chelsea, he'd need to take a pay cut) Kun wants to further his career by not only playing Champions League Football, but winning silverware that will earn him automatic selection in the Argentine national team, probably the advice of his

Atletico Madrid never saw this coming, only 6 months ago Kun put his name down to an extension on his contract to take him through to 2014. Included in this contract is a

45 million Euro minimum sale

With this asking price, to date, only Juventus have officially made an offer for Kun since his

public announcement of intent to

However, Juve did not qualify for Champions League football. Narrowing down the realistic candidates to sign Kun, down to Inter Milan, Chelsea and Manchester City. Considering the pay cut required to join Chelsea, and the a certain unhappy Ar-

gentine already at Manchester,

there is still a chance Kun could stay with the Los Colchoneros, the nickname given to Atletico, meaning the mattress makers, due to the red and white stripes of a their shirts, the same colours of mattresses made in the early 1900's in Spain. Should he leave however, Atletico could swoop for Brazil's Ronaldihno who has been playing football in the Brazilian league since leaving AC Milan, just one of the many rumours circulating Madrid.

There could end up being many departures from the Vicente Calderon apart from Kun. Coach Quique Sanchez Flores has already departed after a reasonable spell of just under two seasons with the Los Colchoneros. Taking over control in late 2009, when Atletico were in the relegation zone, before Ouique steered the team to a Europa League success, European SuperCup success and a Spanish Cup Final appearance.

The club's failure to qualify for the Champions League was ultimately his undoing. Two names have been linked to the vacant coaching position, Barcelona B Coach Luis Enrique and Rafael Benetiz. "Rafa" had spent many years at Real Madrid, coaching various youth and reserve teams, however his father was a supporter of Atletico Madrid.

It has been reported that Benetiz has been offered the job, but he is evaluating his options before giving an answer.

The other names sitting in the departure lounge are Diego Forlan, David De Gea and Jesus Garcia Pitarch. De Gea had reportedly been signed by Manchester United, however De Gea has yet to commit, and stated he will not make any decisions until his duties with the Spanish Under 21 Team are done with in a couple of months. Diego Forlan has been linked with moves to England. Turkey and even the United Arab Emirates, but nothing as vet has settled. Pitarch's (club Director of Sport) contract was not renewed.

PETER ROWE APPOINTED TO **BOARD OF FOOTBALL WEST**

Football West would like to announce the appointment of Peter Rowe to the Board

Peter joins the Board having recently moved to Perth to take up a position with The West Australian as Senior News Editor.

Peter is no stranger to either Perth or football having been a WA resident in the 1980s whilst he was Editor of British Soccer Weekly.

Since that time he has held numerous football and other sport's positions including Director of Communications for The Football League (UK), Public Relations and Media Manager for The Rugby Football League (UK) and CEO of Swindon Town FC.

Adelaide City Chery sign as a Major Sponsor of Football Federation SA

Football Federation SA is proud to announce Adelaide City Chery as a Major Sponsor of football in South

Chery is China's largest and most di-

verse independent vehicle manufacturer, exporting to over 80 countries worldwide. The first vehicles Chery have introduced into Australia are the J11 SUV and J1 Hatch. Adelaide City Chery will supply Football Federation SA with four vehicles with the primary focus on the delivery of metropolitan and regional development programs.

Petkovic, Angulo and Pilkington Melbourne Victory wishes to announce that goalkeeper, Michael Petkovic, has advised the club of his retirement from professional football, while midfielders, Marvin Angulo and Luke Pilkington, have concluded their contracts and will not return to the club when pre-season training begins on July 4.

Football NSW appoints new CEO Football NSW announced the appointment of Eddie Moore as their new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Eddie's experience spans over sixteen years in sports administration, marketing and event management He has worked with the Sydney 2000 Bid, the Sydney Olympic Games, Rugby World Cup, FFA, Triathlon Australia, Hill and Knowlton and Australian Rugby

OLYROOS SQUAD

Olyroos Coach Aurelio Vidmar announced his 19-player squad that will travel to Japan this week to play against the Japanese U-23 National team on Wed 1 June.

The match will be a curtain-raiser before the Kirin Cup match between Japan and Peru.

Aziz Behich (Heart), Dean Bouzanis (gk) (uncontracted), Oliver Bozanic (Mariners), Isaka Cernak (Victory), Diogo Ferreira (Victory), Matthew Foschini (Victory), Jack Hingert (Thunder (VPL), Jason Hoffman (Heart), Marko Jesic (Jets), Matthew Jurman (Roar), Ryan McGowan (Hearts, Scotland), Golgol Mebrahtu (Gold Coast), Tahj Minniecon (Gold Coast), Scott Neville (Glory), Mitch Nichols (Roar), Mirjan Pavlovic (Phoenix), Andrew Redmayne (gk) (Roar), Sebastian Ryall (Sydney), Rocco Visconte (Roar).

Red Star 1991

Goalkeepers: •Milic Jovanovic, Željko Kaluderovic, Stevan Stojanovic (captain)

•Miodrag Belodedic, Slobodan Marovic, Ivica Momcilovic, Ilija Najdoski, Duško Radinovic, Refik Šabanadžovic, Goran Vasilijevic

·Vladimir Jugovic, Siniša Mihajlovic, Robert Prosinecki, Dejan Savicevic, Vlada Stošic, Rade Tošic

•Dragiša Binic, Vladan Lukic, Darko Pancev

win against Georgia. The Gabric situation is another motive for us to succeed in Split." A very confident Slaven Bilic said.

Tottenham Hotspurs best player Luka Modric is the most known name in Croatian squad and he believes the side has what it takes to do well but it doesn't take one player to win a match.

"Of course our goal is to win and I'm confident we will do that. We have a lot of players that are missing but this squad has a lot of quality players and I believe we will all be 100% up to the task and defeat Georgia. The loss in Tbilisi put us in shock, we couldn't believe that we could play that poorly, that match has to be a motive for the return match in Split. We have to show that it was just a bad day in Tbilisi." Modric said

Croatia Su ad Goalkeepers: Vedran Runje, Stipe Pletikosa, Vjekoslav Tomic Defenders: Vedran Corluka, Josip Šimunic, Gordon Schildenfeld

Šime Vrsaljko, Dejan Lovren, Domagoj Vida, Manuel Pamic. Midfielders: Darijo Srna, Danijel Pranjic, Luka Modric, Milan Badelj, Ivan Perišic, Ognjen Vukoievic, Tomislav Duimovic, Forwards: Eduardo da Silva,

Mladen Petric, Nikica Jelavic, Mario Mandžukic, Nikola Kalinic, Ante Vukušic.

Red Star Belgrade celebrates its 20 h Anniversary on becoming the European Champions. The golden generation of Red Star was crowned European Champions 2 h May 199 when they defeated French side Olympique Marseille on penalties following a goalless 12m inutes of football.

the moment then I believe we will Red Star was brilliant during the have an excellent squad ready to



Red Star Belgrade with the 1991 European Champions League trophy

the title without losing a match. The two most famous games was the matches against German giants Bayern Munich in the Semi Finals. The first match was played in Munich with the home side taking the lead early on but just before half time a typical Red Star counter attack proved deadly when Darko Pancev levelled the scores following some fine work by Dragisa Binic on the right side. Red Star would score one more, a fantastic counter attack proved deadly once more. Bayern was on the attack when Stefan Effenberg's pass was cleared by Miodarg Belodedic into the path of

1990/91 European Cup, winning Darko Pancev who just tapped the ern net thanks to Klaus Augentaulball towards Dejan Savicevic on the half way line, and Savicevic excelled past Jurgen Koeller and kept his composure to slot the ball past the Bayern keeper and Red Star was up 2:1 at the Olympiastadion in Munich. The red and whites took that 2:1 lead into the second leg in a packed Markana Stadium in Belgrade. The home side took an early lead through a Sinisa Mihajlovic free kick but Bayern scored two quick second half goals and the scores were now level and when it was destined to go into extra time an amazing and dramatic Red Star attack was converted into the Bay-

the legendary trophy. This was the second time a team from Eastern Europe won the European Cup and it is also the last time a team from the East has done so.

er and the Bayern keeper following

a Mihajlovic cross from the left.

This sparked an eruption of joy in

the stadium which resulted in Red

Star reaching the Final for the first

time. In the Final Red Star was cau-

tious and won on penalties. Darko

Pancey scored the decisive spot

kick and Stevan Stojanovic lifted



He played professionally in Europe for Dimano Zagreb (Croatia), MSV Duisberg (Germany), Mulhouse (France) and Anderlecht, FC Liege, Aalst and Charleroi in Belgium. Eddie is currently coach of VPL's South Melbourne FC.

With Eddie Krncevic

Pick a superlative and enter it here. The football world has just been mesmerised by 90 minutes of pure football heaven in a European Champions League Final contested between two giants of the modern game.

As GW contributor David Manuca commented on Twitter, never have so many looked so forward to a football game that doesn't even involve their club. Whilst we always knew a classic could potentially be on the cards due to the style of football both teams prefer to play, at least this time around it didn't disappoint as is normally the case with so many finals.

Whilst Barcelona deservedly took home the accolades, Manchester United must be praised

for playing the final in the true spirit of competition. Hats off to Sir Alex Ferguson and his troops for attempting to play to their strengths and resist adopting an anti football style of philosophy to squeeze the life out of the game in a win at all costs mentality -m uch as in the same vain as did Jose Mouringho with Real Madrid.

Whilst a coach or manager has to do what he can to control and adjust situations from the sidelines, it was evident with approximately a quarter of an hour on the clock that Sir Alex had almost reclined deep into his chair and decided to join the rest of the world and admire the show that was on display. Precision passing, fluid move-



David Villa scores an absolute peach in the UCL Final

ment both on and off the ball, complimented with control and composure + here were no conspiracy theories to be seen anywhere at Wembley yesterday. In true British Bulldog spirit Wayne Rooney was adamant in his play and gallant in defeat and almost single-handedly carried United's cause, but unfortunately for him and his red army of supporters he was outnumbered by so much quality all over the rest of the park that the score could have been even more. Never the less, Man United can

be proud of their efforts as the rest of us are still in awe of an awesome display by Barcelona, in what was a fantastic finale to a tremendous Champions League season.

Amid all the controversies surrounding FIFA and the game this week at least the good guys came out on top in this contest and football was the beautiful game once more.

IN OFF THE POST

mailbag@goalweekly.com

Got something to say? Why don't you share it with the rest of the football community and get it off your chest.

Dear Goal! Weekly,

I am a retired member of the Australian Referee's Association. I was a referee for 16 years (1970-86) when I retired at the age of fifty. I still go and watch State and Provisional games, but I have no interest in the A-league whatsoever. With the price of petrol these days I don't travel so much as what I would like instead I like to look at Goal! Weekly to find out who is playing who and where.

Yesterday I went to watch the local club Hampton Park v Skye United in Provisional 1 South East. I arrived at the ground and nothing was going on so I bought a cup of coffee and asked about the reserve game. I was told it was called off so I asked "for what reason". This man said that the ground was unfit. I looked at the pitch and thought

to myself, what's he talking about? To me the pitch was in perfect condition, and two guys were sweeping a bit of water from the goal mouth. Nearby was also a pile of sand. Common sense would tell you to put some sand where the water was and bingo! - we have a game on our hands. I would say it was a lack of experience by the reserve game official, so now sometime during the season Skye United reserves will have to go back to play the game. Well done to Michal Skrodsky and the photographers for cover-

ing the State and Provisional

Leagues. Keep up the good

D.Gardner Hampton Park



BOO'S WORLD



With Mark Boric

No news is good news, so the saying goes. If you want news on the tribunal decsion regarding Dandenong Thunder's appeal against penalties imposed for a crowd disturbance in a game against Bentleigh Greens, it is a case of the same old news - another adjournment to a later date. On the topic of non-decisions.

still no new coach at Melbourne Victory. The squad lost Michael Petkovic to retirement during the week and an extension of a loan or even a permanent signing of Marvin Angulo will not be pursued. Who made the call on that is interesting, as it should really be domain of the coach.

Ahmad Elrich, a former Socceroo, was arrested last week on drug and weapons charges. He was pulled over by police for having a faulty light whilst riding his Harley Davidson, and was allegedly found in possession of two pistols. They needn't have worried, he was never that good of a shot and relied mainly on his speed (pace that is, not the drug, but then again maybe) which he largely lost following a knee injury in 2006 which saw him start to get fat. Speaking of fat and shooting blanks, he was also allegedly found in possession of the erectile dysfunction drug Cialis. At least someone still listens to Pele.

South Melboune have been active during the AVPL Transfer Window, making several new recruits including Jean Charles Dubois and Junior Camargo, who



Stan the man...in more ways than we know!

next Homeless World Cup if the rumours about their eviction from their accomodation after leaving the Melbourne Knights are true. Forced to sleep in an automobile for the night, there would have been a poignant moment had The Cars' 1984 classic Drive come on the vehicle's radio. Who's gonna take you home tonight indeed.

Sleeping in a car is probably not great for a footballer's match preparation, but it didn't hinder Stan Collymore. In 2004 the former England international was caught in a "dogging" scandal by the Britsih tabloids. It had nothing to do with racing greyhounds, as dogging is a term for the practice (until perfect in Stan's case) of having sex with strangers in car parks. "I can only beg for forgiveness. Over the apparently are now eligble for the last couple of years I have been to to the AFL's Fred Fanning.

dogging sites maybe a dozen to 15 times, and yes I have taken part and had sex during them. My only hope is that the people I know and love can find it in their hearts to forgive me" he pleaded. His playing career may have ended three years earlier, but he was still scoring as frequently

Heard Holger Osieck got very excited last week when he saw headlines that said Josh Kennedy had grabbed ten goals. Unfortunately he soon found out it was AFL Josh Kennedy who had kicked ten for the West Coast Eagles, not the Socceroo and Nagoya Grampus striker. Amidst his confusion and disappointment, he called up Archie Thompson into the squad for games against Serbia and New Zealand, for he is the closest thing Australian soccer has had

Another week of Soccer has passed us by, where.....

Sir Alex's dream of capturing another European Trophy has passed him by and Liverpool supporters suddenly turned Barca Supporters when watching the final, and they will continue to take the urine out of the Manu

U faithful for weeks to come

Ryan Giggs alleged indiscretions that were announced during the week by a Member of Parliament, who alleges that it was Giggs who took an injunction out to prevent him from being named as the player who had a number of illegal Happy Ends, was an un needed distraction to the pre match build up.

Illegal Happy ends and Manu U seem to go hand in hand of late, could it be the Water that they drink at Old Trafford?

Back to the Match we go where the Barca Boys strutted around the Man U players as if they were training cones, Sir Alex had no answer to their brilliance, back to the Drawing Board he goes.

To the local scene we go where before a blink of an eye, one third of the State and Provisional League Seasons have been completed.

With George Katsamboukas Some teams are eyeing off play-

KATSA'S KORNER

ing in a higher league next year, whilst others are already topping up their E-Tag Accounts in

home.

son trip, to the Westgate.... Speaking of Struggling Clubs, with poor results to date, 3 Club Powerbrokers who's team is languishing at the wrong end of the League Ladder, recently celebrated another loss at a Veune that Katsa has made his second

preparation for their end of sea-

One was seen dancing alone, whilst the other was spotted in the Gents toilets, talking to himself and struggling to keep upright, one wonders what their condition would be if their Team actually managed to win a

And this is the same toilet where

some years ago, one Player's dreams were shattered, when after wooing what he though was a Blonde Bombshell for a Happy End, he found her/him standing up and using the Urina to "unload" the excess contents of J Walker.

The Scorer was flown in last week to Chelsea, where their Gaffer, or should i Know say ex gaffer, were shown the door immediately after their last match and from what I have read, this sacking took place in the Players Race.

Ex Socceroos El Supremo, Gus Hiddick is touted as the favourite to land this plum Gig.

Until next week

This is Katsa just as you have



Aussie Gus could be a regular at the Chelsea Flower Show

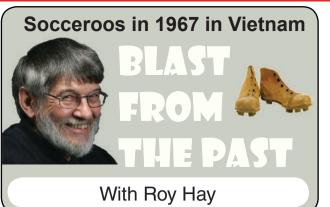
THIS IS FOOTBALL www.thisisfootball.com.au

P: 03 9428 3066

189 SWAN STREET, RICHMOND, VIC 3121. Email: thisisfootball@live.com.au Receive your obligation free Club Kit quote today!

Fantastic Football Flashbacks Dept.

goal weekly



In 1967 at the height of the Vietnam War, the Australian government, led by Harold Holt, agreed it would be a good idea if the national football team took part in a tournament in Vietnam to boost

tional football team took part in a tournament in Vietnam to boost morale in some of the nations involved in the war. Football diplomacy in Asia preceded ping pong diplomacy by a few years.

So Australia set off for the Vietnam National Day Soccer Tournament in Saigon at the start of November 1967. 'Uncle Joe' Vlasits was appointed coach in succession to Dr Joe Venglos who had returned to Europe. He took a young group of players, eight of whom went on to be part of the squads which helped Australian qualify for the World Cup in Germany in 1974.

In many ways it was a strange and frightening experience for the Australians being pitched into the middle of an ongoing war which was beginning to become unpopular at home. As Johnny Warren remembers, the team would be eating with soldiers in their mess and then going to play football, while their colleagues went off to fight. Players were warned by security on arrival not to spend time with Americans, because the latter were prime targets for the Viet Cong.

Eight teams from nations involved in the war took part. Australia, South Vietnam, New Zealand and Singapore made up Group A and South Korea, Malaysia, Thailand and Hong Kong were in Group B. The first match was against New Zealand on 5 November at Cong Hoa Stadium and the Socceroos won by fivegoals to three. Atti Abonyi scored a hat-trick and Johnny Warren, the skipper, and Ray Baartz scored the others. Roger Romanowicz was in goals ahead of the more experienced Ron Corry and Frank Micic started

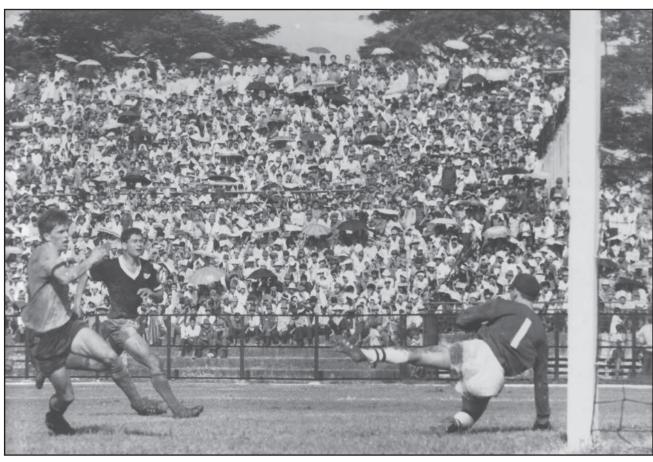
in central defence. The latter was replaced at half-time as the pitch was a quagmire which did not suit Micic's skills. The tough, nuggety Manfred Schaefer took over. Luckily all the fireworks that day were on the pitch.

In the next game two days later Australia took on the host team, which was buoyed by a visit from the South Vietnamese Vice-President to their change rooms at half time, with an offer of a big reward for victory. Johnny Warren scored the only goal of the game after 35 minutes and ran himself into exhaustion for the team. That left a third match against Singapore which was won comfortably by five goals to one. The Australian scorers were identical to those in the first match-three to Abonyi, and one each to Warren and Baartz.

The semi-final against Malaysia turned out to be the toughest yet with a brawl on the pitch after a Malaysian player kicked out at Tommy McColl and the police and military had to come on to the field to restore order. The match went into extra time and there were only three minutes left to play when Ray Baartz scored the goal which won the game.

In the final Australia came up against South Korea on 14 November. The match nearly did not take place after the team was informed that there was no space in the stadium for the Australian military personnel who had been a huge support to the players on and off the field. The Australians threatened not to take part. As it turned out the service personnel were allowed in and the rest of the crowd supported Australia rather than the Koreans, much to the Aussies' surprise. South Korea scored in the first minute but the Australians responded brilliantly.

When the Socceroos went to war



Atti Abonyi scores his second goal to make the score four-three 32 minutes into the second half after receiving the ball from Johnny Warren. Note the muddy shorts, shirts and socks. Australia v New Zealand, Vietnam tournament, 5 November 1967. Source: Laurie Schwab collection, Deakin University Library.

Billy Vojtek produced a wonderful solo goal after 36 minutes and Abonyi and Warren added the others in a three-two win and the first international tournament victory for the Socceroos.

John Barclay, the tour manager, told the team he had put his head on the block for them. He overturned an Australian Soccer Federation decision that the team should return their official track suits at the conclusion of the tour! Talk about

playing for the jerseys. John Warren wrote in his autobiography that the players received \$50 a week while on tour plus \$10 as an allowance. The contrast with modern times is striking, even allowing for changes in the value of money.

The day after the victory the Australians went off to visit the troops in Vung Tau and played a game against them and then there were matches with Indonesia and New Zealand again in Malaysia on the way home.

The Socceroos played ten games on that tour and won them all. The camaraderie in the face of adversity was an important element in the mind-set which eventually helped the Australians to qualify for the World Cup in 1974.

My thanks to John Barclay for assistance with this column, which draws heavily on Johnny Warren's autobiography and Laurie Schwab's The Socceroos and Their Opponents.

Members of the travelling party in 1967

Players: Attila Abonyi, Stan Ackerley, Ray Baartz, Ron Corry, Ted De Lyster, George Keith, Ray Lloyd, Tommy McColl, Frank Micic, Ray Richards, Roger Romanowicz, Manfred Schaefer, Billy Vojtek, Johnny Warren, John Watkiss, Alan Westwater, Gary

Staff and others: Joe Vlasits (coach), John Barclay (manager), Jim Connell (manager). Dr Brian Corrigan (doctor), Lou Lazzari (masseur), Tony Boskovic (referee), Tom Patrick (Qantas staff), Terry Smith (journalist), Martin Royal (commentator.

Nick Pantelis was selected, but had not yet been naturalised and was unable to travel.



The Socceroos with their medals after having won the Vietnam tournament in 1967, standing from left: Attila Abonyi, Ray Richards, Manfred Schaefer, Dr Brian Corrigan, Roger Romanowicz, Gary Wilkins, Frank Micic (rear), Ray Baartz (crouching), Stan Ackerley (peaking through). Ron Corry, John Watkiss, Billy Vojtek (leaning forward), Ray Lloyd, Terry Smith (reporter), George Keith, Jim Connell (manager), Martin Royal (ABC reporter). Front: Tommy McColl, Johnny Warren, Lou Lazzari (masseur), Joe Vlasits (coach). Alan Westwater, Ted De Lyster, Tony Boskovic (referee). Source: Laurie Schwab, The Socceroos and Their Opponents.



Frank Micic is welcomed home by the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Reg Talbot. Source: Laurie Schwab collection, Deakin University Library.

World Football





Francis Fields

To kick-off the week and wave goodbye to the month, a good way to do so is with the secondleg of the Mek can Clausura that was decided last week and due to our time zone differences at the time of print, the match already had a champion in Pumas of

PUMAS winger avi er Cortés scored a sensational individual goal after the 2- year-old weaved through three defenders and fired a shot past one more diving opponent and the goalkeeper to give Pumas their seventh Primera Division title and prove they deserved it.

ARGENTINA

With direct news to our local game. player of the year Marcos Flores at Adelaide United has been offered a contract at Mendoza-based club Godoy Cruz, currently second behind Vélez Sarsfield in the Argentinean Clausura championship.

While Adelaide offered the crafty midfielder a fresh marquee status until 2014, Godoy Cruz is set to offer Flores a deal after initially being rejected by the Reds in order to play the A-League finals series on loan.

Flores is reportedly worth \$50,000 on the international transfer market and it is believed he will not cancel his current contract with a move to Mendoza if the Godoy Cruz does not match the marquee salaray Adelaide has on offer.

Adelaide was prepared to rip up Flores' existing deal ending in 2012 before offering the marquee status and a contract extension worth over \$m illion. Flores is able to sign a pre-contract from October.



Adelaide United's Marcos Flores was subject to Argentinean interest.

RIVER'S BATTLE

The other most notable story to highlight of late is River Plate's demise in the general overall standings of the Argentine Primera divisió. Regarded as the country's second most popular football club with a rich past, River is facing an historic struggle to avoid relegation and the topic of popular mockery throughout the country

MARADONA'S CAFFEINE HIT

What is also a mock has been the revelation that Argentina players took banned drugs before a qualifying match against Australia for the 1994 World Cup, Diego Maradona said Monday.

Maradona made the claim on Argentine television and accused FIFA vice president Julio Grondona, the head of Argentina's Foot-

Flores interests Argentines



Universidad Católica coach Juan Antonio Pizzi still smiling after bowing out from the Libertadores with victory in the first leg play-off quarter final over giants Colo-Colo of the Chilean Apertura.

ball Association, of knowing about

"Why weren't there any antidoping controls in the match with Australia if we had them in all the other games?" Maradona asked during an interview on The Football Show. "They give you 10 antidoping controls and only the match that decides whether Argentina will go to the United States or not, there is no anti-doping control. That's the cheat and Grondona knew about it.

After drawing with Australia in Sydney, Argentina won 1-0 in the second leg in Buenos Aires to advance to the tournament in the United States, from which Maradona was later sent home after testing positive to drugs.

The ongoing feud between the two first erupted when Grondona decided not to renew Maradona's contract as Argentina coach after the 2010 World Cup.

Maradona said the AFA president has long been perfectly aware of drug use in football.

"We took whatever the doctor gave us," Maradona said. "To go to the World Cup, we'd have taken even orange juice. I'm saying it now because Grondona talks about drugs as if he didn't know anything about drugs in football and the sickness I suffered.'

Maradona went on to insinuate that the Argentine government under President Cristina Fernandez was protecting Grondona because of a television deal with the AFA to broadcast national league matches

COLOMBIA

Colombia's Atletico Junior have parted company with Argentineborn coach Oscar Quintabani after the 2010 Clausura champions failed to qualify for this season's quarter-finals.

The club from the Caribbean coastal city of Barranguilla said on their website (www.juniorbarranquilla. com) on Monday they had decided to "terminate by mutual accord the contracts of the coaching staff of the club, including Oscar Hector Ouintabani.

The Buenos Aires-born former goalkeeper Quintabani, 60, has won three Colombian league titles as a coach.

He took charge of Junior at the beginning of 2011 but his team failed to finish in the top eight in the round-robin phase of the Clausura championship. They were also upset by Mexico's Chiapas in the Libertadores Cup first knockout

Former Colombia coach Jorge Luis Pinto, who has had a previous spell at Junior, is set to take over according to daily newspaper El Tiempo.

The denoted 'top three' in the first division have been boosted with week-long news regarding the sale transfers of several key players in the Petrobras championship with local and foreign players snapped to strengthen Brazilian clubs or off to venture into the new season in

International Felipe Seymour from Universidad de Chile part of a trio off to Genoa in the Serie A. The blonde midfielder has been a revelation at the club since joining from the youth ranks and adapting fundamentally to the various coaches at the helm.

His close friend at fierce rival Colo-Colo is Cristóbal Jorquera also off to the Ligurian club. Jorquera has been the source of much talk with his dazzling array of individual skill as creative midfield to show Colo-Colo produces another fine line of youth production.

The youngster hopes to finish his time at the giant club with am appearance today Monday and progress in the Chilean Apertura championship play-offs as the first-leg tie ended in a 4-2 loss against regular season league leaders Universidad Catb ica.

Their instrumental scorer and other signing for Genoa is Lucas Pratto. The Argentine forward formed at Boca Juniors is surely going to live up to expectation and team-up with his new Chilean teammates. Universidad Catb ica will receive US\$ million for the transfer as his Copa Libertadores campaign ended with six goals and dubbed the 'new

Universidad de Chile reached a 2-1 victory over Unió San Felipe in the first-leg of their playoff meeting in Santiago where the top 8 sides play a sudden-death series. Goals from Gustavo Canales and defender Albert Acevedo saw off the lead from the visitors as league goalscorer Matías Urbano took the lead from a penalty kick.

BRAZIL

Santos president Luiz Alfaro de Oliveira Ribeiro has restated his desire to tie Ganso down to a new contract in Brazil, after negotiations with the highly rated playmaker had appeared to grind to a halt.

The 22-year-old has been in talks with his club since October 2010 about signing a new deal, but player and club have failed to see eye-to-eye on the massive buyout clause the Peixe would like inserted as a condition. Santos would like to set a minimum fee of just under 50 million euros for a European club to sign one of their most precious gems, a figure that Ganso and his advisers have insisted must be low-

In the meantime the player has become a target for several clubs on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. Italian giants Milan and Inter have both shown interest in 2011, as have Sao Paulo rivals Corinthians

Nevertheless, Ribeiro is still hopeful of keeping the Brazil international in Vila Belmiro, and has revealed that he will be talking with Ganso later in the week in an attempt to reach some sort of compromise. The chief did point out, however, that they could not expect to raise the offer.

'We do not have more to offer, we made the best proposal possible for him. But I am going to raise the subject with the board of directors this week so we can talk to him," he told reporters at a press conference held during last week's 1-0 Copa Libertadores victory over Cerro

"There is going to be a surprise. We hope that he will be surprised too." The youngster is currently on the sidelines with a thigh injury, and will miss the second leg of Santos' semi-final clash as they continue their bid to win the tournament for the first time since 1963.

SILVA SIGNS FOR GREMIO

Former Arsenal and Brazil captain Gilberto Silva is joining a growing number of leading players returning home after successful European careers by signing for Gremio, the Brazilian club said on Monday

The 34-year-old midfielder will leave Panathinaikos at the end of the season and join the team from the southern Brazilian city of Porto Alegre next week in an 18-month

"We are very happy with this signing. Our commitment is to strengthen further our squad so Gremio will have a great campaign in the Brazilian championship,' club president Paulo Odon said in a statement on their website (www. gremio.com.br).

Gilberto Silva, who began his career at Atletico Mineiro, helped Brazil win their record fifth World Cup in 2002 before signing for English Premier League club Arsenal.

He was also in Brazil's squad at the 2006 and 2010 World Cups, where they were eliminated in the quarterfinals, and captained his country to victory in the 2007 Copa America in Venezuela.

Gilberto Silva follows other top Brazilian players returning home since Ronaldo began the trend in 2009, including Adriano, Ronald-



aiming for final berth and lift the Libertadores trophy after three failing attempts as a former player and seeking a return-leg win in Buenos

inho, Rivaldo, Elano and Luis Fabiano among others. There is also talk of AC Milan's Surinameseborn Dutch midfielder Clarence Seedorf, as previously mentioned on this page. Married to a Brazilian wife, there are reports Botafogo in Rio de Janeiro are interested in him however nothing is concrete so far. Brazil forward Alexandre Pato will miss July's Copa America in Argentina after dislocating his shoulder on Sunday during AC Milan's final match of the season.

Pato was carried off injured in the 70th minute of the goalless draw against Udinese after falling awkwardly in a challenge with defender Christian Zapata.

"He will have rehabilitation," AC Milan club doctor told reporters. "He won't be going to the Copa America. His season is over."

COPA LIBERTADORES

Peñ rol will carry a slender advantage into the Copa Libertadores semi-final second leg after a 1-0 win over Vélez Sarsfield on Thursday in a thrilling atmosphere.

Veteran fullback Darío Rodríguez scored the only goal of the first leg at the Centenario stadium in Mon-

The 36-year-old Rodríguez headed a corner beyond Vélez keeper Marcelo Barovero to give the Uruguayan hosts the lead seconds before the half-time whistle.

Visitors Vélez had enjoyed largely the better of the opening 45 minutes, but Peñ rol had their goalkeeper Sebastian Sosa to thank for preserving the deadlock.

The Uruguayan side, bidding for a record 10th appearance in the final of the competition, slowly came into the match, hitting the woodwork before Rodríguez's opener. With Vélez unable to find an equaliser in the second half, they will start 1-0 down on aggregate in

the return fixture in Argentina this

coming Thursday.

Brazilian club Santos took a step toward reaching the Copa Liberta dores final Wednesday with a 1-0 win over Paraguay's Cerro Porteñ in their first-leg semifinal of the South American club champion-Edu Dracena scored for Santos

with a header from a perfect cross by young striker Neymar. Neymar launched a beautifully flighted bal from the left wing that Dracena knocked in off the underside of the crossbar. Neymar dominated the match

in the 44th, leaping high to score

setting up the winner and missing my inches in the 72nd minute off a long-range shot that sailed just over the crossbar.

In the 80th Neymar skipped around several defenders near the goal, but failed to get off a shot. He threatened again in the 85th with a strike that just slid wide of the post. Cerro Porteñ had trouble assem-

bling much offense early in the match. It was more composed later but still could not break through the Brazilians' defense.

Despite Santos' dominance, i scored only once and may have been looking for a larger cushior as it goes to Paraguay where Cerro Porteño is difficult to beat who "parked the bus" with their defensive formation.

Goalscorer Roberto Nanni was unable as a substitute to unlock and penetrate Cerro's slow build-up play while coach Leonardo Astrada maintained himself preoccupied with his defensive hold up of the ball alongside brilliant saves from goalkeeper Barreto.

To consider having 7 matches in the past fortnight with domestic Paraguayan games in the middle of their schedule and resting, rotating several players including Argentine youth sensation Manuel Iturbe, the narrow defeat leaves everything to play for in the return leg in Asun-



The terraces are alight as Peñarol v Vélez Sarsfield take the field for the Copa semi final match played in Montevideo.





Mike **Salter**

Sydney Olympic went four points clear in the NSW Premier League thanks to a comfortable 2-0 away win at Rockdale on Sunday afternoon. Olympic's two main rivals both slipped up in Round 10; the Sutherland Sharks were beaten 4-2 at home by a resurgent Bonnyrigg White Eagles in the Saturday game, with Brad Boardman and Blake Powell both scoring against their old club, while Sydney United were held to a 2-2 draw by APIA-Leichhardt. Details of the latter game can be found below.

In other games, Manly United moved into the top five by defeating Bankstown 2-1 at Cromer Park. Marconi added to the misery of bottom club Parramatta FC by thumping them 4-1 at Melita Stadium, while Blacktown City bested the South Coast Wolves 2-1 in the other basement battle. It was a difficult week for Blacktown, with their stalwart defender Tyler Simpson tragically taking his own

APIA-Leichhardt 2-2 Sydney

Despite a highly debatable secondhalf dismissal swiftly followed by another one, hosts APIA-Leichhardt did well to hang on to a draw against a stuttering Sydney United in a dramatic game at Lambert

The home swide started brightly. On four minutes, Sam Messam powered his way past Michael Cindric on the United left, but Vedran Janjetovic snuffed out the chance easily. A minute later, a long shot from Mark Byrnes drifted just wide of goal.

On eight minutes, a breakaway move from United ended with Steve Hayes playing Luka Glavas in on the right, but the former Perth Glory man hesitated over his shot, and the opportu-

Olympic Continue To Set The Pace

There was action at both ends in the twelfth minute; a splendid reverse pass from Ivo Bosnar reached Glavas on the right, only for APIA keeper Jose Bello Amigo to block the shot, and Messam immediately forced a save out of Janjetovic at the other end. Hayes then drove a shot wide after a cutback from Glavas, with both sides looking hungry for goals.

On 17 minutes APIA broke the deadlock, and predictably it was Messam's pace which did the damage. A clever diagonal ball from Wandi Jajaw connected with the New Zealander's run, and a neat turn and right-footed finish gave the hosts the lead.

Six minutes later it was nearly two when a sublime through-ball from Franco Parisi set Messam free again, but this time Janietovic saved well: from the rebound, Parisi could only blast the ball over the crossbar.

United switched to a 4-4-2 when Milan Bosnar was withdrawn for Daniel Rezo in the 28th minute. The move nearly paid off in the 30th minute when Rezo touched the ball off to Glavas on the left, but Bello Amigo was off his line quickly to smother.

Jajaw forced his way past Rudan and shot from the edge of the area on 34 minutes, but Janjetovic was again alert. Seven minutes later came another excellent chance for the home side, when a free kick was deflected to Parisi, whose chip played in Messam on the left; the goalscorer sent a cross-shot fractionally wide of goal. Soon afterwards, Glavas muscled his way past Cole Tinkler on the left, but his cutback was cleared smartly by John Kelso.

The game underwent an extraordinary turn soon after the restart. A shot from Haves bounced awkwardly for Bello Amigo, who knocked the ball in the direction of Ben Vidaic, whose miscued shot was cleared. Meanwhile, however, Bello Amigo and Vidaic had collided, and the APIA keeper was sent off and a penalty given in what seemed an extremely harsh decision for the home side.



Sydney Olympic continue to set the pace in the FNSW Premier League after beating Rockdale City Suns 2-0. Photo: CARLOS FURTADO/Courtesy FNSW

Glavas buried the penalty confidently past substitute keeper Stefan Giglio, who had come on for Jajaw.

United went into the ascendancy On the hour, Rezo was neatly teed up by Glavas, but the substitute's right-footed volley flashed wide of the far post. A second for the away side arrived in even more bizarre circumstances than their first. After two fine saves by Giglio from Glavas and Hayes, the ball broke to Vidaic, whose shot was again parried by Giglio; this time, however, it hit the unfortunate Michael West in the back, and the ball looped into the net. Parisi volleyed wide at the other end soon afterwards, pounding his fists

on the turf in understandable frustration.

On 68 minutes came another halfchance for the hosts, Nick Rizzo's cross reaching Messam on the right, who couldn't get enough power on his volley. Five minutes later it was United's turn again, the ubiquitous Hayes's cutback giving the young substitute Matthew Bilic a chance for an angled shot, which Giglio did well

Fourteen minutes from the end, against the odds and the run of play, APIA equalised. The adventurous right-back Mark Byrnes had slipped into an advanced position, and Rizzo slipped him cleverly through on the

left; beating his man, he put in a less-than-forceful shot which was deflected freakishly past Janjetovic. Marlon Vass almost gave the hosts an unlikely lead a minute later, heading just wide from Rizzo's corner.

With ten minutes remaining APIA were reduced to nine, when Vass was sent off for protesting a yellow card he had just received. United, however, looked strangely unco-ordinated with a two-man advantage; a weak shot from Ivo Bosnar in the final minute was all they could manage. 2-2 it finished, a well-earned point for the hosts and a missed opportunity for the visitors.

ROUND 10: FIRST GRADE:

Sutherland Sharks 2 (Matthew Bailey 10m Lachlan Cahill 74m) Bonnyrigg White Eagles 4 (Nathan Elasi 41m Jared Lum 52m Blake Powell 55m Bradley Boardman 60m), Parramatta FC 1 (Evangelos Petratos 80m) Marconi Stallions 4 Matthew Mayora 23/41m Matthew Gordon 72m Gosue Sama 94m), South Coast Wolves 1 (John Martinoski 10m) Blacktown City FC 2 (Own goal 45m Mitchell Duke 71m), APIA Leichhardt Tigers 2 (Samuel Messam 17m Mark Byrnes 76m) Sydney United 2 (Luka Glauas 52m Own goal 62m), Rockdale City Suns 0 Sydney Olympic 2 (Phillip Makrys 30m David Gullo 39m), Manly United FC 2 (Scott Balderson 1m Graeme Forbes 22m) Bankstown City 1 (David Gardiner 71m).

GRADE 20:

Sutherland Sharks 2 Bonnyrigg White Eagles
1. GRADE 18: Sutherland Sharks 4 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 4. : Parramatta FC 2 Marconi FC 1, APIA Leichhardt Tigers 2 Sydney United 0, Rockdale City Suns 2 Sydney Olympic 2, Manly United FC 2 Bankstown City 1.

Next Round

Bonnyrigg WE vs Sydney Olympic Bonnyrigg Sports Club 7:00PM Sat 4/Jun

Marconi Stallions vs APIA Leichhardt Marconi Stadium 7:30PM Sat 4/Jun

Rockdale City Suns vs Parramatta FC Ilinden Sports Centre 3:00PM Sun 5/Jun

Sth Coast Wolves vs Sutherland Sharks John Crehan Park 3:00PM Sun 5/Jun

Manly United FC vs Blacktown City FC Cromer Park 4:00PM Sun 5/Jun

Sydney United vs Bankstown City Syd Utd Sports Ctre 4:00PM Sun 5/Jun

Standings

2 Sutherland Sharks 10 5 1 4 15 12 3 19 3 Sydney United 10 5 2 3 19 11 8 18 4 Blacktown City FC 10 4 4 2 13 11 2 14 5 Manly United FC 10 3 2 5 17 19 -2 14 6 Marconi Stallions 10 3 3 4 12 9 3 13 7 Bonnyrigg WE 8 APIA Leichhardt 10 3 3 4 15 16 -1 13 9 Rockdale City 10 3 5 2 7 14 -7 11 10 Bankstown City 10 3 6 1 13 18 -5 10 11 South Coast

Jarrod Ellis

After an impressive 2010 QSL season that saw the club qualify for its first taste of finals football big things were expected of FNQ Bulls in 2011.

However to date the Bulls form has been patchy at best and their performances on the pitch have only yielded nine points from seven matches. That kind of record saw them sitting level with Whitsunday Miners on the QSL ladder before their Saturday night fixture at Borzi

The Miners could well have been ahead of their opposition on the ladder had they managed to secure a point last week in a tight match against QAS that was only settled in the final minute. With their prior two matches being victories over Brisbane Strikers and Gold Coast Stars, the Miners arguably went into the match as favourites, Graham Harvey's men in a rich vein of form that has seen them playing some of the best football in the league.

The Bulls are a tough proposition for any team whilst on their home ground and despite the Miners recent impressive performances they weren't able to get a result on Saturday night, going down 4-2.

The first half saw little action on the scoreboard, both sides exiting

the field with the score at 0-0. The second-half was a vastly dif-

NQ Bulls In Great Escape

ferent affair, six goals in all, the first arriving only two minutes after the restart, Bulls striker David Ruiz giving the home side the lead.

The Miners responded well to going behind, refusing to drop their heads they were rewarded with an equalizer in the 60th minute. Jamie White capping another impressive performance with a goal, the winger fast proving to be one of the most dangerous attacking players in the

The visitors weren't satisfied to sit back and grind out a point, taking the lead only sixteen minutes later. Englishman Clarke Bradford scoring with a well taken strike.

With time running down and trailing 2-1, the night was looking like being another 2011 disappointment for FNO, a loss to the Miners meaning the Bulls would slip to seventh on the ladder sitting above only Bundaberg Spirit and Capricorn

However with the home crowd be hind them the Bulls managed to lift in the final minutes, producing their best ten minutes of football for the season and pulling off an impressive comeback.

Ruiz got the ball rolling in the 85th minute, his second goal of the game drew the Bulls level before Josh De Nittis gave them the lead a mere two minutes later, the home supporters erupting at the sudden change in fortunes. A likely 2-1 loss then became a comfortable 4-2 win when, in added time, teenager Bronson Koppen added another goal to the home side's tally.



NQ Bulls celebrate after Josh DeNittis seals victory against the Whitsunday Miners. Photo: JIM HATCHMAN

Capricorn Cougars and Gold Coast Stars were also in action on Saturday night, the Cougars looking to build upon their 2-2 draw with NQ Razorbacks in Round 10, a rare positive in what has so far been a dismal season for the Rockhampton

Gold Coast has been going about their business with a minimum of fuss, sitting right on the edge of the finals spots in only their first season in the league. With the withdrawal of Southern Cross United the Stars have become even more integral to the future of the league, a future that if rumors of players defecting from the Stars to Southport are true could be in ieopardy.

However the rumors were put aside once kick-off arrived, Gold Coast able to move up into second spot

with a win if other results fell their In order for that to happen the Stars

needed a win and on this occasion

they weren't able to manage it. Capricorn held the visitors to a 1-1 result, continuing the Cougars improvement in recent weeks, a first win of the season surely not too far away now.

The home side had Tyler Stross to thank for the point, his strike ensuring that despite Gold Coast defender John Prugh's effort the Cougars were able to inch towards their goal of moving off the bottom of the table.

Queensland Results

Capricorn Cougars 1 (Stross) v Gold

FNQ Bulls 4 (Ruiz 47.85. De Nittis 87. Coppen 92) v Whitsunday Miners 2 (White

Sunshine Coast Fire 3 v NQ Razorbacks 1

Qld Academy Sport 1 (Satake) v Brisbane Strikers 5 (Di Sipio, Hews, Thurtell, Robinson pen, Burke pen)

Next Round

Brisbane Strikers v FNQ Bulls

Whitsunday Miners v Capricorn Cougars Sat 04-June 7:00pm

Gold Coast Stars v Bundaberg Spirit Sun 05-June 2:00pm

Sunshine Coast FC v QAS Sun 05-June 2:00pm

NQ Razorbacks v BYE

Standings

	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	Pts
1 Sunshine Coast FC	9	7	2	0	32	5	27	23
2 Brisbane Strikers	8	5	0	3	23	10	13	15
3 QLD AoS	9	3	4	2	15	14	1	13
4 NQ Razorbacks	10	3	3	4	22	16	6	12
5 FNQ Bulls	8	3	3	2	16	12	4	12
6 Gold Coast Stars	8	3	3	2	10	11	-1	12
7 Whitsunday Miners	8	2	3	3	9	12	-3	9
8 Bundaberg Spirit	8	1	1	6	7	29	-22	4
9 Capricorn Cougars	8	0	3	5	8	33	-25	3

clash between Sunshine Coast and NQ Razorbacks at One Mile Oval in Gympie. The Fire were far too good for a Razorbacks side absent Lorenzo Sipi, recording an emphat-

11

Sunday afternoon's match was a

South Hobart have one hand on title



Walter Pless

Reigning champions South Hobart have one hand on the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League title after beating secondplaced New Town Eagles 4-1 away at Clare Street on Saturday.

Eagles are now 8 points adrift of leaders South Hobart and there is no-one in sight who can beat South Hobart.

Third-placed Clarence United drew 1-1 with fourth-ranked Tilford Zebras at home at Wentworth Park on Saturday night, which is just the result South Hobart were hoping for. South Hobart are 8 points ahead of Clarence and 13 points in front of Tilford Zebras.

On Friday night, bottom-side Olympia Warriors' problems continued when they lost 2-0 away to sixth-placed Glenorchy Knights at

Kostas Kanakaris was in superb form for South Hobart, ending his recent goal drought by hitting a marvellous hat-trick.

South Hobart indicated their intentions as early as the 3rd minute when midfielder Greg Downes thumped a tremendous shot against the Eagles crossbar with keeper Nathan Pitchford helpless.

Kankaris put the visitors in front with a clinical downward header

from Andy Brennan's excellent cross from the right while under pressure.

Two minutes later it was 2-0 as Tom Roach slipped a short free-kick into Kanakaris's path and the striker netted with a low drive that flew in off the left-hand post.

Eagles suffered a setback when speedy midfielder Simon Strang went off with a rib injury in the 17th

Eagles' Michael Anderson was sent off when he collected a second yellow card after a poor tackle. His first had been for kicking the ball away at a free-kick.

The home side were given a glimmer of hope in the 40th minute when Adam McKeown expertly nodded home Michael Anderson's cross to make it 2-1 at the interval. Kanakaris restored South Hobart's two-goal buffer in the 71st minute when he neatly side-stepped substitute Alex Leszcynski and beat Pitchford with a low shot from just outside the box.

With four minutes remaining, Roach won the ball in a slide-tackle and rolled the ball into the path of substitute Jonathon Lo, who made it 4-1 for the visitors.

After a goalless opening half dominated by Clarence, Ben Hamlett gave them the lead against Tilford Zebras in the 58th minute, following a precise through-ball down the left by Kyu-Jun Kim.

Andrew Telega made it 1-1 with a header from Ricky Self's corner in the 77th minute.

Luke Cripps almost gave Zebras the win when he rattled the crossbar of his former club in stoppage time.



South Hobart's Andy Brennan is surrounded by Eagles opponents Nick Ferrall, Mark Page and Ben Whitehall. Photo: WALTER PLESS

Olympia unveiled their new recruit from South Melbourne Hellas, 19-year-old Jake Van der Mey, in Friday evening's match against Glenorchy Knights.

Van der Mey had a satisfactory debut at centre-back, partnering former Knights stalwart Tony Dzelalija, but Olympia were well beaten. The Knights might easily have won 5-0 as they missed some glorious chances and Olympia's goalkeeper Michael McKenna was in outstanding form.

McKenna produced an outstanding save in the 12th minute, turning Matthew Nowicki's full-blooded shot from Brendan Garth's cross

The keeper also did well to catch Jacob Huigsloot's back-header from a corner in the 20th minute.

In the 56th minute, Garth missed an absolute sitter, turning Corey Smith's low cross from the right over the bar from point-blank range.

In the 65th minute, Nowicki dispossessed fullback Jayden Hey and cut inside, but his shot came back off the far post and the ball rebounded into a grateful McKenna's arms.

Knights keeper Ben Peter did well to turn Brady Cronk's right-wing cross over the bar in the 75th minute after a neat Olympia build-up involving Josh Fielding, Adam Hedge and Chris Kumpulainen.

Seconds later, Knights hit the front when a chip by Smith found the onrushing Nowicki, who planted a firm header past McKenna.

A minute into stoppage time, the Knights' Frenchman, Mathieu Gregoire, made it 2-0 with a curling free-kick which flew over the defensive wall and lodged inside McKenna's right-hand post.

In the Forestry Tasmania Northern Premier League, Prospect Knights became the new leaders when they trounced Launceston City 5-0 away at Mitsubishi Park.

Devonport City moved from third to second spot after downing previous leaders Northern Rangers 3-1 at home at Valley Road through goals by Grant Ashdown, Chris McKenna and Daniel McGinn.

Burnie United scored an important 8-0 win at home at Montello against bottom-side Launceston United, while Ulverstone overcame Riverside Olympia 1-0 away at Windsor

In Southern League One, leaders University went down 1-0 away to third-placed Metro at North Chigwell. The win lifted Metro into

Fourth-placed Taroona beat bottom-side Southern FC 6-0 away at Sherburd Park.

Southern Division

	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	Pts
South Hobart FC	11	9	2	0	40	13	29
New Town Eagles	11	6	3	2	24	16	21
Clarence United	11	6	3	2	21	22	21
Tilford Zebras	10	4	4	2	22	16	16
Kingborough Lions	11	5	0	6	22	26	15
Glenorchy Knights	11	2	3	6	17	27	9
Beachside FC	10	1	2	7	11	23	3 5
Olympia FC	11	1	1	9	17	31	4

Glenorchy Knights 2 Olympia FC 0 New Town Eagles 1 South Hobart FC 4 Clarence United 1 Tilford Zebras 1 Beachside FC 1 Kingborough Lions 3

Launceston City 0 Prospect Knights 5 Riverside Olympic 0 Ulverstone 1 Devonport City 3 Northern Rangers 1 Burnie United 8 Launceston United 0

Next Round

Friday 3rd June 2011

Glenorchy Knights v Clarence United KGV Park 08:00 PM

Saturday 4th June 2011 Tilford Zebras v New Town Eagles KGV Park 06:30 PM Olympia FC v Beachside FC Warriors Park 07:00 PM

Sunday 5th June 2011 South Hobart FC v Kingborough Lions South Hobart 02:30 PM

Saturday 4th June 2011 Ulverstone v Somerset

Ulverstone Showgrounds 02:30 PM Burnie United v Northern Rangers Montello 02:30 PM Launceston United v Devonport City
Birch Avenue 02:30 PM Launceston City v Riverside Olympic Mitsubishi Park 02:30 PM Prospect Knights v Bye

Northern Division

Prospect Knights	8	6	1	1	20	7	
Northern Rangers	8	5	1	2	19	9	
Devonport City	8	6	0	2	22	16	
Ulverstone	8	5	1	2	21	12	
Launceston City	8	3	2	3	14	17	
Riverside Olympic	8	3	1	4	14	15	
Somerset	8	2	0	6	11	19	
Burnie United	8	3	0	5	17	18	
Launceston United	8	0	0	8	13	38	

Matricciani hat-trick gives MetroStars win



MetroStars striker Michael Matricciani put Raiders to the sword with a hat-trick in their 4 0 win at the Croatian Sports Centre on Saturday in Round 8 of the Super League.

Scott Tunbridge, making his 100th Super League appearance, also notched up his 50th goal in the competition as MetroStars took home a deserved three points. The visitors sat in third place

knowing a win would allow them to leapfrog Adelaide Galaxy into second while Raiders came into the match equal last with Para Hills.

It was a thoroughly dominant performance throughout from the visitors but it took until after half time for them to turn their dominance into a comfortable win. The young Raiders side battled hard but were ultimately beaten by a well-drilled team. Jackson Groves, best on ground for MetroStars, was busy in midfield while the opener arrived on 17 minutes when Steve Grelli found Francesco Monterosso and his low cut-back was tapped in by Matricciani.

The game was over as a contest shortly after the break with Scott Tunbridge following up a saved effort to knock home a simple finish in the 50th minute. Just four minutes later and Matricciani had his second as he headed in a cross that floated

over Raiders goalkeeper Dan

Photos: PETER HARRISON

The former Adelaide United striker notched up his hat-trick nine minutes from time to complete the rout and has now scored seven goals this season. The two goal scorers also picked up votes for their performance.

MetroStars coach David Terminello was happy with his sides showing while also recognising it was a significant victory with a tough fixture to come next week

"It was a good game for us; the boys put in and worked hard. It was a team effort," he said.

"Our form has been up and

down so it was important to get a win here with our match next week [against Galaxy]."

MetroStars jackson Groves desperately heads a ball away from oncoming raiders duo Paul Mackey and Mensur

Delkic after keeper Dan Godley was grounded while captain Lee Robertson and Adam Van Dommele guard the net.

Adelaide City have streaked ahead early in the season but Terminello is not ready to give up the fight, however acknowledging it will be a difficult ask.

"Adelaide City will be tough to catch but anything can happen. It's an old cliché, but we will just take it week by week."

For Raiders, striker Mimi Saric was the standout, followed by Mesur Delkic and Daniel Hain. They have a chance to move away from the relegation zone when they host Para Hills next weekend.

Modbury halted the charge of Adelaide Galaxy on Friday night at Jet Park, moving off the bottom of the ladder as the sides drew 1-1. A first half Shaun McGreevy strike gave Galaxy the advantage, but the hosts fought back and grabbed a point with Michael Francis' equaliser.

Dan Elekwachi, Chris Dean and David Crowl were best on ground for the Jets while it was McGreevy, Scott Weidenbach and Nick Munro for the Galaxy. Evenly poised going into the match, it was Adelaide Blue Eagles who collected the three

points against Croydon at Polo-

nia Park on Saturday. Nicholas Bucco gave Blue Eagles a halftime lead. Croydon's concerns in front of goal came to the fore and they were made to pay for their inability to finish chances when Fortunato Filletti added a second to seal the result.

Bucco and Filletti were joined by goalkeeper Gino De Lucia in grabbing votes, while Ermias Tekle, Daniel Christison and captain Michael Papacharalambous were in the top three for Crovdon.

Campbelltown City playercoach Jason Trimboli was up to his usual tricks, netting a lastgasp winner for his side which saw them down Para Hills at The Paddocks on Saturday. A tight match, it was decided by the veteran and gives Campbelltown a much needed boost. They are equal fifth on 11 points while Para Hills remain at the foot of the ladder with four

For Para Hills, Rhys Townsend, David Bounds and Brett Selga were best on ground and it was Michael D'Alosio Michael Menechella and William Russell who collected votes for the

Standings

P W D L For Ag GD Pts 7 7 0 0 22 4 18 0 21 8 5 1 2 20 6 14 0 16 1 Adelaide City 2 Metro Stars 3 Adelaide Galaxy 8 4 3 1 14 7 7 1 15 4 Adelaide BE 4 2 2 10 8 2 0 14 5 Campbelltown 8 3 2 3 7 8 -1 0 11 8 3 2 3 7 9 -2 0 11 6 Croydon 7 Western Strikers 7 3 0 4 9 8 1 0 9 8 1 2 5 6 28 -22 0 5 8 Modbury 8 1 1 6 9 17 -8 0 4 9 Raiders

8 1 1 6 5 14 -9 0 4

10 Para Hills

FFSA Results

Modbury 1 (Michael Francis) v Adelaide Galaxy 1 (Shaun McGreevy) (HT 0-1) Best – Modbury: Dan Elekwachi, Chris Dean, David Crowl; Adelaide Galaxy: Shaun McGreevy, Scott Weidenbach, Nick Munro - Modbury 0 v Adelaide Galaxy 2 U19 - Modbury 1 v Adelaide Galaxy 1

Raiders 0 v MetroStars 4 (Michael Matric ciani 3, Scott Tunbridge) (HT 0-1) Best – Raiders: Mimi Saric, Mesur Delkic, Daniel Hain; MetroStars: Jackson Groves Scott Tunbridge, Michael Matricciani Reserves – Raiders 2 v MetroStars 0 U19 – Raiders 0 v MetroStars 3

Croydon 0 v Adelaide Blue Eagles 2 (Nicholas Bucco, Fortunato Filletti) (HT 0-1) Best - Croydon: Ermias Tekle, Daniel Christianson, Michael Papacharalambous; Adelaide Blue Eagles: Fortunato Filletti, Gino De Lucia, Nicholas Bucco Reserves - Croydon 2 v Adelaide Blue

U19 - Croydon 0 v Adelaide Blue Eagles 4

Trimboli) (HT 0-0) Best - Para Hills: Rhys Townsend, David Bounds, Brett Selga: Campbelltown City

Para Hills 0 v Campbelltown City 1 (Jason

Reserves – Para Hills 4 v Campbelltown 0 U19 - Para Hills 3 v Campbelltown 0

Modbury 1 (Michael Francis) v Adelaide Galaxy 1 (Shaun McGreevy) (HT- 0:1) Best – Modbury- Dan Elekwachi, Chris Dean David Crowl Adelaide Galaxy - Shaun McGreevy, Scott Weidenbach, Nick Munro Reserves – Modbury 0 v Adelaide Galaxy 2 U19 – Modbury 1 v Adelaide Galaxy 1

Adelaide City v Western Strikers Monday 30 May Adelaide City Park, kick off 7:30pm

Next Round

Western Strikers vs Modbury Carnegie Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 4/Jun

Raiders vs Para Hills Croatian Sports Centre 3:00 PM Sat 4/Jun

Adelaide Galaxy vs Metro Stars Makris Park 3:00 PM Sat 4/Jun

Adelaide Blue Eagles vs Campbelltown Marden Sports Complex 3:00 PM Sat 4/Jun Croydon vs Adelaide City

Polonia Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 4/Jun Monday 30th May 2011





Ashley Morrison

Last season on the eve of winning their second consecutive Premiership the Western Knights sacked coach, former Wales and Tottenham defender Paul Price, this weekend saw him return to Nash Field for the first time with new side Sorrento. To add spice to the fixture, the Knights had three former Sorrento players in their line up while Sorrento had two former Knights players.

Sorrento came out meaning business however it was the Knights who against the run of play created the first real opening. Stuart Montgomery robbed David Price inside his own half for the Knights and then played a wonderful through ball for Callum Roberts. He took the ball a little too far but tried his luck from an acute angle, and Aspden saved with his legs before Cameron Yorke cleared.

Sorrento took control of the midfield and as a result of the game as well, Adam Luca working tirelessly while the Knights' sat too deep and had no link with their forwards. In the 34th minute it was Luca who swung in a corner from the left for Sorrento, Jason Mirco rose at the far post but guided his header over

The Knights were quick to counter attack and within two minutes Aspden denied Roberts with a finger tip save as once again he found his way in behind the defence. From the resultant corner big Stuart Ferguson nodded his header straight at Aspden.

In the 38th minute Duncan Hind committed a needless foul on Dovle down the left and Sorrento had a free kick. Adam Luca curled the ball into the

Sorrento Pay The Penalty

Sorrento should have gone in at half time two goals to the good as Mirco found himself in behind the Knights defence with just Siddall the 'keeper to beat, but he shot wide.

Within two minutes of the restart Sorrento counter attacked through Jack Doyle who played a well weighted pass to Foster, he shot on the run and only a good save from Siddall prevented him doubling his and Sorrento's tally.

In the 53rd minute the Knights drew level. Morgan's long thrown in from the left fell to Simon Versaico, who mishit his shot, the ball rolled to Ferguson who managed to squeeze his shot between Aspden and the near post.

Straight from the kick off Siddall was the Knights saviour again saving from Jack Doyle. Then Roberts squandered two great opportunities to give the Knights the lead as they started to stretch the Sorrento defence. First he shot over the cross bar on the angle and then after a sublime first time pass from Montgomery forced Aspden into a scrambling save as he cut in from the right and shot

In the 64th minute Daryl Platten pushed up for Sorrento, he looked to play a onetwo with a team-mate, but the ball was inadvertently played back into his path by Glen Thomas, he continued into the box where he tangled with the imperious David Annall. The challenge was clumsy and the referee pointed to the spot. Foster stepped up and struck a low weak effort to Siddall's left that the 'keeper was down to sharply and held to his chest.

Minutes later Siddall again came to the Knights' rescue with a brave headed save at the edge of his box in a challenge with Jamie Harnwell after Hind had coughed up cheap possession.

With no midfield spark for the Knights Montgomery was the key to them find-



Photo: PETER SIMCOX

ing a winner and once again in the 77th minute with four Knights players on three Sorrento defenders he again found Roberts in space. Again he cut infield and fired a powerful rising shot that Aspden did well to push on to the post.

Two minutes later Annall dropped his shoulder to send a Sorrento player the wrong way and surged into midfield, he looked up and dinked a ball over the defence into the path of Roberts, the retreating Platten slipped giving Roberts a clear run at goal, but again he blazed over the crossbar. As the ball sailed into the crowd so too did the Knights hopes of claiming all three points. With the

season at the half way stage they need to find some presence in the middle of the park or their Premiership will be heading elsewhere this season.

In other fixtures Cockburn City's dreadful season continued as they went down 4-2 away to Floreat Athena with Liam Boland scoring two for Floreat. They now find themselves seven points adrift at the bottom of the table at the half way stage in the season.

Inglewood United who have been on fire in recent weeks and who have one of the most potent strike-forces in the league went down to a surprise 1-0 defeat at ECU Joondalup which sees them

slip to fifth behind Sorrento. The injury to livewire forward Ndumbe Makeche obviously taking its toll.

Three times Armadale took the lead against Bayswater City, but three times Bayswater managed to equalize, however they left it very late for a share of the spoils with Diaz scoring in the third minute of injury time.

Second placed Perth accounted for Mandurah City with a 2-0 win away from home, and will no doubt be hoping that Stirling Lions can defeat top of the table Balcatta in the Sunday fixture, which would see them takeover top spot in the league.

All Flags WA Results

First Team Floreat Athena 4 (Boland 22, 31, Vujacic 26 ia 86) Cockburn City 2 (Devite 77, 87); ECU Joondalup 1 (Thornley 1) Inglewood Utd 0; Bayswater City 3 (Marulanda 40, Tumoe 59, Diaz 90+3) Armadale 3 (Mac Donald 6, Barlow 52, J Robinson 88); Mandurah City 0 Perth SC 2 (Pereira 3, Simpson 20); Western Knights 1 (Ferguson 52) Sorrento 1 (Foster 38), Balcatta 2 (Niederberger 57, Rosindale 90) Stirling Lions 0.

Floreat Athena 3 Cockburn City 4; ECU Joondalup 3 Inglewood Utd 3; Bayswater City 5 Armadale 1; Mandurah City 0 Perth SC 1; Western Knights 2 Sorrento 1. Balcatta 1

Floreat Athena 2 Cockburn City 2; ECU Joondalup 4 Inglewood Utd 1; Bayswater City 4 Armadale 4; Mandurah City 0 Perth SC 13; Western Knights 4 Sorrento 2.Balcatta 4 Stirling Lions 4.

Next Round

Inglewood United v Mandurah City 6PR Stadium 3:00 PM Sat 4/Jun Armadale SC v Floreat Athena FC Alfred Skeet Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 4/Jun Perth SC v Bayswater City BGC Stadium 3:00 PM Sat 4/Jun Cockburn City v Stirling Lions Dalmatinac Park 3:00 PM Sat 4/Jun Balcatta SC v ECU Joondalup Grindleford Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 4/Jun Western Knights v NTC Nash Field 3:00 PM Sat 4/Jun

All Flags WA Premier League

	Р	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pt
1 Balcatta	12	10	0	2	32	12	20	30
2 Perth SC	12	9	1	2	28	13	15	28
3 Western Knights	12	6	3	3	19	18	1	21
4 Sorrento	12	6	2	4	19	17	2	20
5 Inglewood United	12	6	1	5	32	23	9	19
6 Floreat Athena	12	5	2	5	21	21	0	17
7 ECU Joondalup	12	5	2	5	14	21	-7	17
8 Stirling Lions	12	4	2	6	18	22	-4	14
9 Bayswater City	12	3	4	5	20	24	-4	13
10 Armadale	12	3	2	7	18	22	-4	11
11 Mandurah City	12	3	2	7	11	16	-5	11
12 Cockburn City	12	1	1	10	14	36	-22	2 4
			_	_				_

Late Penalty Drama Earns City Share Of Spoils



Russ **Gibbs**

A 9 st minute penalty converted by leading scorer Misko Naumoski has earned Canberra City a 1-1 draw with Woden Valley on a cool Canberra afternoon at Woden Park. Naumoski slotted home from the spot, via the legs of Woden custodian ac k Pettit, after Mathew Kocic had up-ended Pat Ross-Magee in the area as the match entered injury time.

It was probably a justifiable share of the spoils for City who was left chasing the game following Woden's opener after 72 minutes. Mouad Zwed had made a penetrating run into the heart of the City defence before being illegally checked on the edge of the penalty area. From the resultant free-kick Alex Oloriegbe sent a stunning effort high over the wall and into the top corner of the net. Earlier, Nikola Taneski had struck

the top of the crossbar with a speculative volley in the first half, whilst James Ward blocked a shot from Woden's Oloriegbe after the speedy attacker had made space for himself in the area.

The match swung back towards City after the dismissal of Woden midfielder Hector Alamos for a second yellow card and Naumoski's penalty spot effort preserved the status quo at the top of the Rock Premier League. However, the home team almost snuck a late winner when Paul Gagetti met a cross with a header but was unable to generate enough power to beat Ward in the City goal. The Saturday match between Tug-

Woden Valley's Alex Oloriegbe (No.7)celebrates with team mates after having scored. Inset: The free-kick beats the Canberra City goalkeeper James Ward. Photo: NICK GUOTH

geranong United and Belconnen United was switched from Tuggeranong's home ground of Kambah 2 due to the playing surface being deemed unfit during the week. The fixture took place on the artificial turf of Hawker Football Centre and the perfect run of the ball on that field certainly benefitted Belconnen more than a trip to the bumpy surrounds of Kambah may have done.

An early goal from Tom Rogic had the Blue Devils in front and an unfortunate own goal fourteen minutes later had Tuggeranong chasing a uphill battle from that point onwards. The 'home' team battled hard though and managed to keep their illustrious visitors to only the two goals at half-time. Indeed, it took until the 62nd minute for Belconnen to goal three-up and effectively kill the contest, when Rogic added his second of the encounter.

Dustin Wells had scored five goals last week in the 6-2 rout of Monaro Panthers and the classy midfielder was at it again twenty minutes from time adding another goal to his burgeoning season tally. His second of the match, eleven minutes later, was his tenth of a productive year to date. Callum Smith's goal, in the final minute of the match. added gloss to the score line and consigned Tuggeranong to their heaviest defeat of the season after five rounds

Canberra FC has moved five points clear at the top of the table after defeating Cooma Tigers 6-3 in a goal-fest at Deakin Stadium. Both Paul Ivanic and Ian Graham scored hat-tricks for Canberra FC who twice came from behind at 1-0 and 3-2 to claim maximum points. Serdan Bircan had given the Tigers a 1-0 lead after only two minutes while Alex Castro, from the penalty spot, and Elyja Shah netted within the space of three minutes around the hour mark to have the Tigers dreaming of success. Canberra FC regrouped though and did enough to win a terrific match.

At the Riverside Stadium the home team, Monaro Panthers, were beaten 3-1 by Canberra Olympic

ACT RESults

Tuggeranong United 0 Belconnen United 6 (Tom Rogic 2', 62', own goal 16', Dustin Wells 70', 81', Callum Smith 89')

Canberra FC 6 (Paul Ivanic 32', 67', 80', lan Graham 36', 73', 84') Cooma Tigers 3 (Serdan Bircan 6', Alex Castro 57' (pen), Elyja Shah 60')

Monaro Panthers 1 (Mark Shields 86' (pen)) Canberra Olympic 3 (Elia Salloum 61', Robbie Shroder 65', Daniel Barac 81')

Woden Valley 1 (Alex Oloriegbe 72') Can-

Next Round

Canberra City v Goulburn Strikers Hawker Football Centre 3:00 PM Sun 5/Jun

Nijong Oval 3:00 PM Sun 5/Jun

Canberra Olympic v TUFC

Belconnen United v Woden Valley

ACT Standings

	Р	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
Canberra FC	5	5	0	0	37	7 +	-30	15
Woden Valley	4	3	1	0	19	2 +	-17	10
Canberra City	5	3	1	1	10	6	+4	10
Belconnen United	5	3	0	2	20	10	+10	9
Canberra Olympic	4	3	0	1	11	8	+3	9
Monaro Panthers	5	1	0	4	18	14	+4	3
Tuggeranong Unite	d4	1	0	3	8	12	-4	3
Cooma Tigers	4	0	0	4	5	19	-14	0
Goulburn Strikers	4	0	0	4	1	51	-50	0

who struck three times after the half-time break to win the match. Elia Salloum scored with his first touch of the ball to give Olympic the lead in the 61st minute before a brilliant goal by Robbie Shroder had Olympic in firm control. A third goal, struck by Daniel Barac nine minutes from time sealed the points before the Panthers scored a consolation from Mark Shields, his tenth goal of the season, from the







Where

Club Italia Sporting Club 128 - 152 Furlong Road, Sunshine

AC MILAN COACHES UEFA 'PRO' & A

When

7 - 9 July 9am - 12 noon

Players 6 - 17 yrs **Register Online**



Conducted By Ex AC Milan Player Andrea Icardi



Tanya Robinson Age: 29 Scored with Steven Taylor (Newcastle United)



Couch Potato Dept.



SBS ONE

Monday 30th May 4:30 pm FIFA Futbol Mundial

11:30 pm

Sunday June 5th Football Asia - Provides the 10:30 AM latest news and updates of the various football leagues across Asia. (Sport)

Les Murray's Football Feature Highlights from the Coppa Italia Final: Inter Milan v Palermo. (Sport)

UEFA Champions League Magazine Program - Highlights

and news from the latest round of the UEFA Champions League.

SBS TWO Monday May 30th 09:30 PM Th

The World Game

SPORTS

English Football League Monday 30 May Championship Playoff Final LIVE Reading v Swansea (Fox 1)

Japan v Australian Olyroos LIVE Wednesday 1 June 5.15 pm

English Premier League 2010/11 Season Review Friday 3 June 8.30 pm

International Friendlies

Sun June 5 Australia v New Zealand LIVE 4.30 pm (Fox 3) Tue June 7 Australia v Serbia LIVE

Monday 30th May

07:00 am GOAL! Bundesliga Season Review Look back over the best f ootball action from the Bundesliga in

07:00 am GOAL! Bundesliga Champions 2010/11: Borussia Dortmund 2010/11 has been a season of stunning success for Borussia Dortmund. By Christmas the team in yellow had opened up an almost unassailable lead atop the Bundesliga Goal! reliv es the highs and lows.

Friday 03rd June

05:30 am GOAL! (Rpt) Bundesliga Season Review
Look back over the best football action f rom the Bundesliga in the 2010/11 season review

Saturday 04th June

05:30 am **GOAL!** (Rpt) Bundesliga Champions 2010/11: Borus sia Dortmund 2010/11 has been a season of stunning success f or Borussia Dortmund. By Christmas the team in yellow had opened up an almost unassailable lead atop the Bundesliga Goal! reliv es the highs and lows.

SETANTA SPGRTS

Monday 30-May Nations Cup Republic of Ireland v Scotland 3:25am LIVE
Coppa Italia Final Palermo v Inter

5:30am Delay Thursday 2-Jun Copa Libertadores Semi-Final 2nd Leg Cerro Porteno v Santos 10:45am

Friday 3-Jun

Copa Libertadores Semi-Final 2nd Leg Velez Sarsfield v Penarol 10:45am

Saturday 4-Jun Euro 2012 Qualifier Croatia v Georgia 3:55am LIVE

Euro 2012 Qualifier England v Switzerland 1:15am LIVE
Euro 2012 Qualifier FYR Macedonia v

International England U21 v Norway U21 3:15am Delay
CONCACAF Gold Cup Costa Rica v Cuba 7:55am LIVE

CONCACAF Gold Cup Mexico v El Salvador 9:55am LIVE Tuesday 7-Jun

CONCACAF Gold Cup Jamaica v Grenada 10:55am LIVE CONCACAE Gold Cup Honduras v Guatemala 12:55pm LIVE

Wednesday 8-Jun CONCACAF Gold Cup Panama v Guadeloupe 7:55am LIVE CONCACAF Gold Cup USA v Canada 9:55am LIVE

Friday 10-Jun CONCACAF Gold Cup Costa Rica v El Salvador 8:55am LIVE
CONCACAF Gold Cup Cuba v Mexico



The Futbol Town Show Every Tuesday 7pm

Extra Time Magazine Show Every Tuesday 7.30pm

Every Wed 7pm

The Green Gully Football Show

Wireless FC

Global Football Show

Jacob Kagi and Ian Hooper discuss local, national and inter national football every Thursday night from 7.30-9pm on WA's SportFM 91.3.

The Four Diegos Monday to Thursday 11pm

5-A-SIDE SOCCER **NEW SEASON STARTS SOON!** MEN'S I LADIES I MIXED I JUNIORS

VATCH A REPLAY OF YOUR FAVOURITE GAME IN THE BAR AT FULL TIME!



As part of the UK television coverage of the UCL final, the presenter Adrian Chiles spoke about getting his thesaurus out to try and find new words to describe how good FC Barcelona are. He settled, like had had all evening, for saying they were the best club side ever. Maybe I'm getting old, but for me they are great but its not even close which club team is the best to ever win

the European Cup.

The AC Milan team of the late 80s seems to have been given a raw deal by the media, but its normal. In this day and age, 20 years may as well be 20 million years ago. The same will happen in another 20 years, when this Barca team will just be a pleasant memory. The reassuring thing about all this is that the very things that make this Barcelona team great, can apply to the AC Milan team of the early 90s. AC Milan had only 3 foreign players, the Dutchmen – Marco van Basten, Ruud Gullit and Frank Rijkaard. But these players bought into the team ethic of coach Fabio Capello who, like his predecessor Arrigo Sacchi, advocated a 4-4-2, allied with a pressing game high up the pitch and with overlapping full-backs. We all know what happens when great players buy into a team work ethic, you get FC Barcelona of 2011, and AC Milan circa the 80s.

Just like Barca, Milan won the 1988-89 European Cup in style, thrashing Real Madrid 5-0 in the semi-final second leg. This team had players like silky smooth play-maker Carlo Ancelotti, the industrious Roberto Donadoni and a defence that included young Paolo Maldini at left back, along with Franco Baresi and Alessandro 'Billy' Costacurta in central defence. In the final they beat Steau Bucharest

celona are, the Milan team was better. It had no weaknesses in central defence and had the best striker in the world at that time - Marco van Basten. And Milan did something Barca have failed to do. They repeated the feat the year after. Barca deserve the plaudits but for me, unless they defend their crown successfully at the Allianz Arena next year, they're still second best. But second isn't that bad, unless you're Manchester United.

But what about United? At the after-match press conference, SAF explained to the gathered media, that his decision to omit Dimitar Berbatov from the United squad was the toughest decision he's had to take. It would have made no difference to the outcome, although it has fuelled a debate about whether Berbatov has played his last game for the club. Ferguson's reasoning was that Michael Owen provided the best chance of getting a goal in the last few minutes, due to his big-game experience. I have to disagree. Owen, quite frankly, isn't a United player. He's good enough for Stoke, Sunderland and teams like that. To be fair, I bet SAF didn't expect Javier Hernandez to play like a pussy-cat, or for Antonio Valencia (what was going on with his hair!) to pretend he could tackle. The tactic of playing Ryan Giggs also failed, and surely SAF must know now that Giggs is great for the Premier League, but not for big nights against big teams.

SAF, when questioned about the tactics, said that he tried to play the way United always play, and that he wanted to play to their strengths. They may have lost, but the tactic is one I agree with. Both teams played the way they usually did and they let the chips fall where they



The golden era of AC Milan when it featured Dutch masters Ruud Gullit, Marco van Basten and Frank Rijkaard.

may. That, to me, is the main reason Jose Mourinho should never be United coach. He adapts to the opposition better than any coach in the world, but sometimes you have to play to your team;s strengths. And to all those who complained about United letting Barca pass them off the pitch. Duh! It's what they do. Mourinho couldn't stop it and neither could United. Anyway, United will be back. Lets not see this as a failure. Being beaten by a better team isn't a disgrace and, to their credit, United took defeat as gracefully as I have seen.

Just Another Day in the Roman Empire

However dubious you are about how he got his fortune and, like him or hate him, you have to admire Roman Abramovich's decisiveness. This guy's ruthlessness makes Jack the Ripper look clueless. On the back of Avram Grant's quick-fire sacking

minutes after West Ham were relegated, we now have Carlo Ancelotti being fired within an hour of Chelsea's final game. The club statement said: "This season's performances have fallen short of expectations and the club feels the time is right to make this change ahead of next season's preparations". Bang, you're dead.

For weeks Carlo's been a dead man walking, so why not put him out of his misery as soon as possible? The Russian oligarch probably wasn't the one to tell Carlo tête-atête that he was sacked. He was reportedly at the game, watching The Blues lose to 10-man Everton, thus ending the season on a sour note. But, like a Mafia Don, he would have given the final order so, make no mistake, when Carlo saw the gun and felt the bullet hit his forehead, it was the big man behind the assassination. To be fair, if Jose Mourinho couldn't surwhat hope the Italian? Of course there was the usual fuss and complaints, but it is his money and he can do with it what he likes. He set the benchmark with Avram Grant — when he got to a UCL final and finished second in the league and still got fired. In fact, the big surprise is that we're surprised at all.

Chelsea's new coach will know what they're letting themselves in for: several million a year in the bank and a fortune to spend on players. How can that be bad? The fans may not like the Russian's ways but what are the alternatives? He could sell the club, and then the new owner could spend all eternity trying to balance the books, or he could stop interfering with the team (that's if he even does, we don't really know, he doesn't do interviews) and stop buying players the coach hasn't asked for. The latter isn't going to happen and to be honest, what's

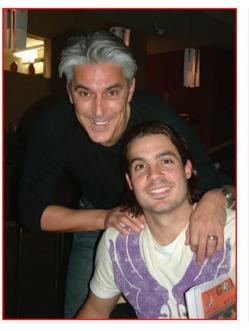
to bankroll the team? Would Chelsea fans rather things be like the "good old days", when they couldn't sell-out their ground and when they were happy with a cup final every few years and a UCL place. Ask Arsenal fans if they'd like Chelsea's recent success, ask Spurs fans. Because if the Roman empire crumbled, Chelsea would be no better than the Spurs and Arsenal's of this world.

Here's a thought for Roman on the new coach: a few years ago a coach called Jurgen Klopp was relegated with Mainz., a small provincial German club. He joined Borussia Dortmund as coach. This season Borussia Dortmund are champions of Germany, and they are a team that plays the best football in the Bundesliga. Ian Holloway's Blackpool play great football, have just been relegated...no I don't think it'll happen either!





TOMORROW'S NEWS, TODAY.



Danny Invincible (Kilmarnock)



James Holland (AZ Alkmaar)



Sasa Ognenovski (Seongnam)



Adrian Zahra (Melbourne Heart)



Cameron Watson (Adelaide Unted)



Rama Tavsancioglu (North Qld Fury)



Nick Kalmar (Melbourne Heart)



Mitch Langerak (Borussia Dortmund)

GET GOAL! WEEKLY EVERY MONDAY AND GET A GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE.

AVAILABLE FROM ALL GOOD NEWSAGENTS SINCE 2005.





Half-Time Australian football's Cone of Silence

FIFA boss Sepp Blatter is one of the best football prick teasers of all time and he has out-pricked himself with the suggestion that the World Cup bid could be re-run due

to new corruption claims. But the news that piqued my interest the most has been an interview that appeared on the ABC program Lateline where English investigative reporter Andrew Jennings http://www.abc.net.au/ reslib/201105/r772022_6575246. asx asserted that former FFA Media and Corporate affairs Manager Bonita Merciades was fired by Ben Buckley at the behest of World Cup bid consultant Peter Hargitay. And in what wouldn't be out of place in a Zeitgeist documentary Jennings also accuses Australia's Mr Football Les Murray of being part of the 1956 Hungarian Nexus along with fellow Hungarian speakers Sepp Blatter Peter Hargitay & Frank Lowy.

In the Lateline interview Jennings suggest that: "Bonita read international press, she read what was happening in Germany, what I'd written about him (Hargitay) unchallenged in Britain. Hargitay said to Buckley, "Fire that woman. Fire that person. Get her out." And big, brave, ballsy Ben Buckley said, "Yes, Peter." You know, imagine: six foot four, Rules player, tough as they come, should've booted Hargitay into the harbour, instead fired this five foot five inch-high smart, good, decent Australian employee who's never worked

After news that there would be a Government review into football a couple of weeks ago I posed some question to Bonita herself: I asked her on Twitter: You spent time at the FFA. Are you allowed to let Australian football public



Max and the Cheif.

know what happened behind the scenes? WC Bid? Her response was: "Only think it's useful to do so in a framework of helping advance the game' So I asked a couple more questions: But don't you think as a journalist letting the public know the truth behind the FFA spin will

Since there is a govt review the public would like to know about WC bid & failed expansion. You can offer a unique insight. Unfortunately I got no response to either question.

Damn you Australian football

surely advance the game?

cone of silence!! Damn you!! The only reason I can think of why she is silent is that the FFA has imposed a gag order. Kevin Airs is the online editor of Australian 442 website and after the Jennings interview asked Bonita about the explosive allegations. Kevin asks: Hi Bonnie, in case you missed my question before, did Hargitay order Buckley to

sack you as Jennings says? Again Bonita ever the diplomat answers without answering:"This would be a waste of a question. Not important. Focus on testing FFA's future plans. Regarding the money that was

spent on Peter Hargitay Jennings asks "Why aren't the coppers round, why aren't your fraud squad round FFA headquarters looking at the money that went to Hargitay and the dubious people he bought in to Australia that took your money? Jennings now in comedian form said that when then English FA bid Chief Lord David Triesman

arrived at the English FA to find the buffoons there had fallen for Hargitay's glib talk. Then Jennings in a mock Har-

gitay deep voice impersonation says "You know I know President

Blatter. I'm very close." Then he switched to his normal mocking voice:

Oh, yes, Peter, will you work for



us? Triesman walked in the door and said, "What's that bum doing here?" and threw him out. He fired him.

Jennings then mocks the FFA and includes Mr Football Les Murray who besides a couple throwaway lines down the years from various enemies has always been viewed by the majority of Australian football fans through rose tinted glasses.

"The buffoons from Australia listened to this and Les Murray joined in, it's the 1956 Hungarian nexus, I'm afraid, which is, "Oh, well, Peter Hargitay's a wonderful person, very well-connected and we're lucky to get him." Jennings said.

In an interview with the a different league website (http:// www.adifferentleague.co.uk/ p6_13_5459_panoramas-andrewjennings-on-englands-worldcup-bid-fifa-and-the-media.html) in December last year Jennings

re-iterated that Australia was duped by these consultants and Les Murray was no clean skin either.

"I feel sorry for the Australians. They lost and the taxpayers are the ones who paid for their bid And now Les Murray comes out and says FIFA are in big trouble. Give me a break. For Les Murray to come out and say that is ridiculous."

The website says: "Murray is a member of FIFA's ethics committee and described the decision to award the 2022 edition to Qatar as "lunacy", adding "No one will believe Qatar won this process legitimately."

But, says Jennings, Murray and the Australia bid have their own questions to answer: "Murray has no credibility. The ethics committee is appointed by Blatter for a start. But Murray speaks Hungarian, [Australia 2022 chairman] Frank Lowry speaks Hungarian, [bid advisor] Peter Hargitay speaks Hungarian. Nice

little club they've got there." So that explains what Jennings means when he says it's the 1956 Hungarian nexus. Guilty by linguistication

In more embarrassment for the FFA The Age's investigative reporters Nick McKenzie and Richard Baker who both won the Quill Award for Best Sports Story for their articles on the FFA's bidding practices used during the2022 World Cup (: http:// www.smh.com.au/national/canberra-not-told-as-millions-paidto-world-cup-lobbyists-20110521 -1excc.html#ixzz1NLEdEklx) reported that documents obtained under freedom of information laws reveal the Department of Health and Ageing wrote to FFA after it learned of Mr Hargitay and Mr Radmann's involvement to seek details about their remuneration and the documents also show a senior FFA manager, Bonita Merciades, expressed disquiet about the consultants in emails to the government. The events of this week certainly enhances the cynicism that Australian football fans feel that like many other countries that Australia is just a lowly insignificant pawn in the wider world of football politics which through naivety and stupidity were duped into bidding for a World Cup they had no chance of winning. While it's funny to see Les Murray's name involved in an evil conspiracy of Hungarian speakers I asked Mr Football if he was able to comment on Andrew Jennings assertion that he is part of the 1956 Hungarian Nexus with Sepp Blatter, Peter Hargitay & Frank Lowy? All I got was the Australian football cone of silence.

Damn you Australian football cone of silence!! Damn you!!

Why Maradona Loves Coffee

By Con Stamocostas

What a week in Australian football. Maradona confesses that he and his La Albiceleste teammates took drugs against the Socceroos before a second leg World Cup qualifier in 1993 and two of the Socceroos participants couldn't give a flying

When Australia played Argentina during the second leg of their World Cup qualifier in Buenos Aries a few mates and I jigged school to watch the game at the Sydney Olympic Club. I was in Year 11 and I remember missing a crucial maths class. Watching the game was a frustrating experience because with the Socceroos down 1-0 late in the game Socceroos striker Carl Veart scored what everyone thought was an equalising goal. The noise and jumping were so loud and thunderous that the projector failed and we lost the picture. We waited a couple of

minutes while staff at the Sydney Olympic club tried frantically to get the projector to work again, while the punters screamed "hurry up and fix it Re! Only to find out that once the picture was fixed that the goal was ruled offside. Obviously failure to qualify yet again was a crushing feeling.

So I was shocked and astonished to read that Paul Wade and Robbie Slater have given quite muted responses to the news Maradona and Argentina cheated. Anytime that game or Maradona's name is brought up in Australia Paul Wade and Robbie Slater are always the go to guys to get a quote even though they were not they only players that played in that game. Robbie Slater's response to the news when asked by Liam Fitzgibbon of News Limited if it tarnishes the experience Slater said. "It certainly won't for me, it was a magical three weeks, it was mythical.

"In spite of this coming out ...

those two games, despite us not qualifying, rest as one of the best memories in my career.'

And Paul Wade's response is even weirder no outrage no feelings of being cheated instead he takes the news that the Argies were as high as Andrew Johns during a State of Origin game as a compliment. Chatting to the SMH's Sebastian Hassett Wade said "I was absolutely shocked when I heard about it. But, wow, in a bizarre way, what a compliment to us. They must have been very scared that we'd knock them out of the World Cup qualifiers,"

But news that the Argies have been talking happy pills is not any new discovery. Before the World Cup last year I read Jimmy Burns excellent book on Maradona "Hand of God". In it he claims that during the 1978 World Cup the Argies which they went on to win were as high as Charlie Sheen on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday ,Thursday, Friday, Saturday



Pills, thrills and Sunday chills. Maradona gets high on his own supply

and/or Sunday.

An excerpt from the book reveals that: "According to other reports Mario Kempes and Alberto Tarantini were so "high" after playing one particular World Cup match that they had to keep on going for another hour before they came down again"

Another most extraordinary epi-

in one of the competition dopes At least on this occasion they had

sode of the World Cup involved

the pregnant wife of the Argen-

tine's team waterboy after it was

revealed that her urine was used

as a cover for an Argentine player

dope tests! Surely someone from that Socceroos team has to feel cheated and robbed. To think of being literally cheated out of playing at A World Cup and taking the news as a compliment and as one of the best memories in a career. I wonder if indeed they really wanted to go to the World Cup in the first

World Cup Countdown - Germany June 26th - July 17th - 27 days to go!

Japan to fly Asian flag on world stage

By Ann Odong



Despite their recent prominence internationally and FIFA best ranking of No. 4, the Japanese are yet another team that will be looking to transfer their regional power onto the world stage. Japan epitomise the changing face of women's football. Highly skilful and tactically astute, the Nadeshiko finally look poised to make a real impact on the interna-

How They Qualified

Japan entered the 2010 AFC Asian Cup as the hottest of favourites and their early performances verified that tag. Placed in Group B, a first up 8 - 0 demolition of Myanmar was followed by a 4 - 0 victory over Thailand. The final group match was more problematic but Kozue Ando and Yuki Nagasoto saw them overcome DPR Korea 2 - 1 to finish on top of the group.

Their reward was a semi-final encounter with Australia. The Japanese dominated the match in terms of possession and chances created but the post and some determined defending from Australia denied them and it would prove costly. Just prior to half time, luck went the way of the Australians with Kate Gill's additional time header the eventual difference between the two sides. Though disappointed, Nadeshiko returned in the third place play-off to easily account for China 2 - 0 and qualify for their 6th FIFA Women's World Cup.

The Japanese are captained by one of the legends of Japanese football in former AFC Women's Player of the Year Homare Sawa. Coach Norio Sasaki has built up a team known for their technical superiority, speed of movement and passing style. The squad to head to Germany will consist of many mature and tested players. Along with veteran Sawa, 23 year old Yūki Nagasato will be vital. The forward has been one of the best in Europe helping her German team FFC Turbine Potsdam to the final of the UEFA Champions League and the Bundesliga title. Several others in the squad also have big club experience including Aya Miyama and Karina Maruyama, whom both spent time in the WPS. Norio Sasaki will be hoping that European and American experience will add some grunt to the Japanese team and prove the difference.

Players to Watch:

Yūki Nagasato (Forward), Mami Yamaguchi (Midfielder), Aya Miyama (Midfielder), Shinobu Ohno (Forward)

Best Footballing Moment

Despite a World Cup quarter final appearance, arguably Japan's best football moment is their Gold Medal win at the 2010 Asian Games. Drawn in Group A alongside DPR Korea, a 4 - 0 win over Thailand and 0 - 0draw with DPR Korea was enough to see them finish top. The semi-final



After initially struggling to make an impact in tournament football, England Women's team are developing into one of the major forces in the game.

saw the Japanese meet traditional rivals China PR and it took a 108th minute goal from Shinobu Ohno to separate the teams. The final against DPR Korea was an equally tense affair with Azusa Iwashimizu's late winner giving Japan their first ever women's football trophy.

World Cup Objective

As the highest ranked nation in Group B, it would be a great disappointment if our Asian neighbours were unable to advance further than the group. From there, they would need to buck a lot of history to proceed deep in the tournament but this generation might just be able to do

New Zealand

Coach: John Herdman Captain: Hayley Moorwood Confederation: OFC Current FIFA Ranking: 24 Best World Cup Finish: **Group Stage**



We know New Zealand well. With Australia now gone, the Kiwis stand as the giants of Oceania. The next challenge for our southern neighbours is the World Cup. Like Australia, New Zealand women's football has been in transition with many of their veterans retiring. This new generation has seen New Zealand display some of their best footballing performances in recent history and only time will tell just how far this young crop can progress.

How They Qualified

Of the 16 nations to qualify for the World Cup, it's safe to say that New Zealand had the easiest time of it. As expected, the Kiwis dominated Group A in the 2010 Oceania Women's Championship with big wins over the Vanuatu (14 - 0), Cook Islands (10-0) and Tahiti (7-0). A 8 - 0 semi-final win over the Solomon Islands saw their passage

into the final where a Rosie White

hat-trick lead the New Zealanders to a very comfortable 11 - 0 victory, their fourth Oceania title and direct entry into their third FIFA Women's

The Team

There's a very fresh look to this New Zealand squad with only four or five players from the 2007 World Cup squad left. Although it's a young squad that John Herdman will take to the 2011 Women's World Cup, it is one that has exciting possibilities. Captain and Chelsea midfielder Hayley Moorwood will be required to display all her talent and leadership qualities as she spearheads a squad with an average age of just on 20. If the New Zealanders are to shake up the group, Moorwood will be looking for the support of other overseas based players such as Ria Percival (Ottawa Fury), Ali Riley (Western New York Flash), Rebecca Smith (Wolfsburg), Hannah Bromley (Herforder) and Kirsty Yallop (Kristianstads).

Players to Watch:

Rosie White (Forward), Kirsty Yallop (Midfielder), Ali Riley (De-

Best Footballing Moment

New Zealand have been very dominant in the Oceania region but have struggled to step up in the big time. However, now and again the Kiwis have managed one or two surprise results including a hard fought 2-2draw with Japan in the 2008 Olvmpic Games with goals from Kirsty Yallop and Amber Hearn earning them their first points in an international tournament. It might just bode well for them in the group stage!

World Cup Objective

New Zealand will be looking to gain their first World Cup points in 2011. While Japan and England are the clear standouts, New Zealand will fancy their chances against follow group minnows Mexico. However if that is to happen, they will need to learn from their 5 - 0 loss to the Mexicans earlier this year.

Mexico

Coach: Leonardo Cuéllar Captain: Maribel Dominguez Confederation: CONCACAF Current FIFA Ranking: 22 Best World Cup Finish: **Group Stage**



Background

Mexican women's football has never been stronger. Long have they played third fiddle to the United States and Canada in CONCACAF but now Leo Cuéllar's side are slowly emerging from their large shadows. Displaying the modern brand of possession football, the southern cousins have started to take their first steps into the sunlight and the Women's World Cup will be their greatest test.

How They Qualified

Placed in Group A alongside Canada in the 2010 CONCACAF Women's Gold Cup, Mexico were destined to finish second in the group which they duly did. Wins over Guyana (7-2), Trinidad and Tobago (2-0)and a loss to Canada (3 - 0) pitted the Mexicans against the mighty USA in the semi-finals.

Despite their dismal record against the Americans, the Mexicans put in an inspired defensive performance against their northern neighbours. First half goals from captain Maribel Dominguez and Verónica Pérez were enough to see them thought into the final. Although they lost the final to Canada 1 - 0, it was all enough to gain them entry into just their second FIFA Women's World

The Team

When it comes to Mexico, captain Maribel Dominguez is the true stand out. Everything starts and finishes with the iconic Mexican playmaker. But at 32, and despite her continued thirst for goals, it's now up to the next generation to take up the mantle. Several players look to take

it up in the CONCACAF qualifying included fellow strikers Verónica Pérez and Charlyn Corral. Mexican midfield looks to be led by Nayeli Rangel, Guadalupe Worbis and US college star Teresa Noyola. Mexico may not have the name players in women's football but they have proven that under Cuéllar they can do a job and do it well.

Players to Watch:

Maribel Dominguez (Forward), Verónica Pérez (Forward), Nayeli Rangel (Midfielder), Guadalupe Worbis (Midfielder)

Best Footballing Moment

Mexico entered the 2010 CONCA-CAF semi-final with a woeful 0-26record against the USA. However, three minutes into the match, the history books were thrown out the window when Maribel Dominguez latched onto a Lydia Rangel pass and put the Mexicans ahead. It took 20 minutes for the Americans to pull level as Carli Lloyd met Megan Rapinoe's in-swinging cross. US celebrations had barely died down before the home side were ahead again. This time it was young striker Verónica Pérez who benefited from Juana Lopez's precise midfield supply. The second half saw the USA pile on the pressure looking for an equaliser and eventual winner. Although they dominated possession, space and chances, Cuéllar's side withstood all to hand the US their first ever CONCACAF Women's World Cup qualifying loss.

World Cup Objective

Like group opponents New Zealand, Mexico will be looking for their first ever points in the World Cup. If their recent outings are anything to go by, they should be able to achieve this objective.

England Overview

In the years after the First World War, English football was big, very big. Yet it wasn't the men that the public were flocking to see, it was the women with regular crowds of 40,000 plus spectators. Their popularity got to the stage that in the 20swomen's football was eventually banned in the United Kingdom. It's taken awhile but finally the women's national team appears to be on their

Coach: Bruno Bini Captain: Sandrine Soubeyrand Confederation: UEFA Current FIFA Ranking: 7 Best World Cup Finish: **Group Stage**



onships, 2011 could be the year that the does return to English shores.

How They Qualified

With a Group E that comprised of, Spain, Austria, Turkey and Malta, it would have appeared that only an utter catastrophe would have seen England fail to advance from the group. No such thing was going to occur for the Three Lionesses with comfortably accounting for their opponents with only Spain putting up a token fight.

The two legged direct qualification on paper looked a tougher proposition as England found themselves up against Switzerland. That was not be the case with Fara Williams and Kelly Smith finding the net at home and Williams, Smith and Eniola Aluko sealing the deal on the road as England qualified 5-2

The Team

Led by captain Faye White, the bulk of the English team will come from clubs that are household names Arsenal, Chelsea, Everton and Birmingham City. Hope Powell's squad looks to be full of players in the peak of their careers led by Fara Williams, Karen Carney, Jill Scott, Eniola Aluko and defender Alex Scott all players set to take the reins. However, it will the old guard of White, Kelly Smith and Rachel Yankey that could determine how deep the Three Lionesses will progress.

Players to Watch: Kelly Smith (Forward), Eniola Aluko (Forward), Fara Williams (Midfielder), Alex Scott (Defender)

Best Footballing Moment

The 2009 UEFA Women's Championship saw England get off to a very shaky start with a 2-1 loss to Italy in the opening match of Group C. A follow up narrow 3 – 2 win over Russia and a 1-1 draw with Sweden meant the Lionesses scraped through the knock-out stage as the best third-placed qualifier.

Although through, England faced Group A winner Finland, and in a see-sawing match, the Brits came out on top 3-2 thanks to Williams and Aluko. The semi-final against the Netherlands again saw England ride their luck as they came out on top in extra time 2 - 1. The fairytale and improbable run finally ended in the final against Germany but the tournament saw the arrival of England as a real women's football contender.

World Cup Objective

England would fancy their chances in this World Cup and I do too. Their lead up has been impressive with wins over World No. 1 USA and No. 5 ranked Sweden. Whether they can go all the way will depend on how their senior players perform but if ever there was a "dark horse" then it's England.





FULL NAME: Evan Christodoulou **BIRTHPLACE: Melbourne BIRTH DATE: 18/12/90** HEIGHT: 183 cm WEIGHT: 73 kgs MARRIED: No CAR: Nissan Pulsar **NICKNAME: Evs** PREVIOUS CLUBS: George Cross, Western Suburbs REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS:

Victorian school boys Under 13's GHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO:

Harry Kewell
FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER:
Fabrigas (Arsenal)
FAVOURITE HAL PLAYER:
Costas Barbarouses (Roar)
FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO:
Mark Viduka

FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO:

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAY-ER: Dandenong Vs George Cross 2010 MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN: Australia v Uruguay MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE

SCORED: Dandenong 2010 - Goal of the

EARLIEST FOOTBALL MEMORY:
Under 8's Sunshine Heights
FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL:
Knocking the refout with the ball during a
School soccer match

EIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENTA Finishing second on Football Superstar

WORST INJURY: Broken food
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT:
Wayne Wallace (Bentleigh greens)
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND:
Port Melbourne
SUPERSTITIONS:

Don't walk under ladders

Don'twalkunder ladders
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: Muestland
yoghudwith fruit then abowl of pasta
WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS: Can read
the game well, very fit at the moment
WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES:
Not the fastest player to be honest
FAYOUR HE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP:
Arsenal & Essendon
FAYOUR HE OTHER SPORTS: Tennis
FAYOUR HE OTHER SPORTSPERSON:
Roger Federer

FAVOURINE FOODS: Chicken Parma
FAVOURINE ACTOR/ACTIRESS: Russell
Grow, Denzel Washington, Tom Hanks
HOBBIES: Call Of Duty on PS3
FAVOURINE HOUDAY RESORT

Favourite Nichtispote Alumbra
IDEAL DATE: My Citiffiend Haha
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: Criminal Minds
FAVOURITE MUSIC: 70'S Classics
FAVOURITE FILM: Cladiater, Green Mile
LAST SOCCER SHIRITYOU BOUGHTE

Barcelona away
FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD
ABOUT YOURSELF: They to all true!
EIGGEST INFLUENCE ON GAREER:

BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCERE

Rehabiformyfoot
FOOTBALLAMBITION: PlayA-League
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? : The perosn

who invented the Playstation 3
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEARS HALL ROAF YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S VPL: Continue to bring young players through the ranks to develop them.

Euro transfer market prepares for busy summer



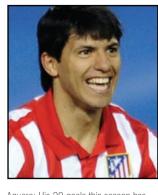


Alex Luttrell

Well, so much for a small break for football managers at the end of some very intense European football seasons. Many clubs are already looking at some serious big-name transfers, and others being a load of media propaganda.

Many of these are rumours for the time being, with no big-name signings being made as of yet, considering it is still early on in the transfer window. Most notable transfer rumours thus far surround speculation of Sergio Aguero to leave Atletico Madrid after requesting to be release so he can "further develop his career".

Atletico chief executive Miguel Angel Gil Marin stated that Aguero was not for sale, but his \$\mathbb{4}0\$ million price tag has been looked at by likely Real Madrid, Chelsea and Manchester City, but



Aguero: His 20 goals this season has sparked a lot of interest

also Juventus and Liverpool. Other big name transfer rumours include the signature of Cristiano Ronaldo for £50 million to Manchester City, as City are the only club to afford such a player. This, however, has been laughed off by both Roberto Mancini and Jose Mourinho, who is also been rumoured at a return to Chelsea next season after the sacking of

Mancini has also laughed off claims that Carlos Tevez will leave the club for a return to South America, claiming Tevez has said he wants to stay, but rumours still fly that the Argentine striker may leave. Along with



Drogba: Heart is at the Bridge but could be part of a big summer move

Tevez, rumours are rife that Shay Given may leave for Celtic.

Once again, all the attention is on City's transfer interests, with possibilities of signing Japanese powerhouse Keisuke Honda, with bids being lined up. There is also the likely possibility of bringing Zlatan Ibrahimovic to Eastlands, a player Mancini desperately wants. Currently on loan at AC Milan from Barcelona, the Sweedish striker wants to stay with the Serie A champions. In saying this, it is ultimately Barca's decision whether Ibrahimovic stays in Italy, returns to Spain or moves to another club. It has been reported that an offer



Neymar: Hot property and Chelsea are keen to pounce

of £0 million would be enough to tempt Barca.

In other big name rumours, Didier Drogba has been linked for a move to Galataasaray after the signing of Fernando Torres, and the news from London is that Chelsea will up their intentions of landing Brazilian sensation Neymar.

The Ivory Coast captain is also being eyed by his old club Marseille, Tottenham and Manchester City.

But sources close to Drogba have revealed that while he is talking of a possible move, deep down he would like to stay at Chelsea. Meanwhile, Emmanuel Adebayor has been linked for a switch to Tottenham but with Real's promising form it may be unlikely.

In what looks like a busy summer for Arsenal, Karim Benzema has been linked to the Gunners after interest from Arsene Wegner as he wishes to move on Nicklas Bendtner. The Gunners are also planning a bid for 18 yearold midfielder Mario Gotze from German champions Dortmund. who may be difficult to sign, with interest from Barca and Manchester United. Finally, what appears to be a busy summer for Arsenal could be topped off with the signing of Falcao from Porto for 26 million, with Tottenham also showing interest.

However, Arsenal may also lose Samir Nasri this summer after the French winger says he wants out, with Inter tracking the midfielder, along with imminent bids for Alex Song and Gael Clichy. Zenit St. Petersburg has also put in a ₹m illion bid for Andrei Arshavin. Arsenal, Tottenham, Liverpool and Everton are also after Lille playmaker Gervinho for £0 m illion.

At Manchester United, David De Gea has still not been signed,

with Atletico being reluctant to accept the £7.8 million fee for the keeper. United are also after Newcastle's Jose Enrique. Juventus has shown interest for left winger Nani for £5 million, but that is very unlikely with United's current form compared to Juventus'.

Lastly, rumours at Liverpool, as all would expect, are running high, with Kenny Dalglish being handed the cheque book for what will be a very busy summer. Liverpool have been linked with a move for Diego from Wolfsburg for £5 million, as well as fellow German league and Dutch left winger Eljero Elia from Ham-

Liverpool are also closely eyeing off Aston Villa trio Brad Friedel, Ashley Young and what looks to be the biggest possibility, Stewart Downing, with an imminent bid to be made. Finally, Dalglish has reportedly agreed to an undisclosed fee for world class left-back Fabio Coentrao from Benfica in what caps off what will be a very eventful transfer window this summer in Europe. Enjoy.

Asian Scene with Daniel Iaconis

Carlo Ancelotti.

apan

League leaders Kashiwa Reysol dealt Vissel Kobe's top 4 aspirations a massive blow on Saturday with the home side cruising to a 3-0 win thanks to a brace from Junya Tanaka in the space of three minutes while Brazilian Leandro Domingues added a third in the 76th minute.

Elsewhere in Saturday struggling giants Urawa were held to a 1-1 draw at home by Albirex Niigata with Matthew Spiranovic picking up a yellow card in the 90th minute, Vegalta Sendai and Yokohama also drew 1-1, Alex Brosque and Eddy Bosnar played a full 90 minutes in Shimzu S-Pulse's 0-0 draw with Jubilo Iwata while Ventforet Kofu and Montedio Yamaga-

Korea

Table-toppers Pohang Steelers were held to a 2-2 draw at home Saturday by 10th placed Dague. The home side took a 2-0 lead in the

ta played out a 1-1 draw.



Matthew Spiranovic picked up a yellow card late in the match for Albirex Niigata in the 1-1 draw with Urawa Reds.

opening 20 minutes thanks to goals form Jae-Sung Kim and Gi-Dong Kim only for the visitors to equalise with goals from Seong-Min Ahn and Thiago Quirino in the last six minutes of the opening half.

Ulsan pinched a win on the road with a 1-0 win against the Chunnam Dragons, Sangju Sangmu and Gangwon played out a 0-0 draw

while Busan I'Park and Gwangju drew 1-1.

China

Saturday's only CSL game saw Shanghai Shenhua thump the Chengdo Blades 4-1 with Luis Salmeron scoring a hat-trick for the home side.

Indonesia on the brink

By Francis Fields

The Indonesian Football Association (PSSI) was on the brink of ep ulsion from FIFA this past weekend after the governing body called off a crucial leadership vote that had descended into bitter deadlock.

Tension between supporters of rivals for the post— wo of whom had been banned from the nominations—brought the general congress to a halt leaving the national association hung in chaos.

PSSI normalisation committee head Agum Gumelar, tasked by FIFA to contest the election after the world governing body took control of the league last month, closed the meeting after more than six hours of dispute. In a nation neighbouring ours with also the biggest Muslim population in the world, Indonesia despite its little influence on the world football stage does attract a few foreign names to its domestic league.

Army chief-of-staff George Toisutta and oil tycoon Arifin Panigoro have been banned from contesting the vote for chairman, amid deep divisions over how the game should be run in a country of 240 million people.

Panigoro started a breakaway Indonesian Premier League in January, introducing privately owned clubs instead of the PSSI model where teams are funded by regional governments. The rogue league, featuring ex-Aston Villa midfielder Lee Hendrie, triggered fury from PSSI, which threatened to deport its foreign players and

bar its Indonesian players from the national team.

Of the foreign players plying their trade in the LPI, and named by Haid, are Australian Robert Mark Gaspar and former Hyundai A-League player Eugene Dadi - whom we remember from Glory and Phoenix days.

Others including ex-Glory goalkeeper Alex Vrteski has been joined by Football West Premier League player David Micevski at Solo FC. Even Mark Viduka was rumoured to have been targeted to join Atjeh United FC at one stage.

Recently Chris Doig of the Central Coast Mariners departed for Pelita Jaya, part of the PSSI affiliated Super League. Yet he seems a rare player headed to the 'proper' League.

And all of this comes back to what is really happening both in Australia and in Indonesia. That is, how the players are being treated.

This is where Brendan Schwab of the Professional Footballers Association comes in. Currently chief executive of the Australian Professional Footballers' Association, Schwab has become involved in the set up of the LPI, mainly as an adviser.

As such, the interests of our Australian players are also under his influence and as with the whole league in terms of salaries. As the future looks stained with two bodies fighting for the right to play and govern football in Indonesia however, the show, the football strictly speaking must go on. Ninety minutes into the congress, FIFA representative Thierry Regenass expressed frustration that del-

egates were still arguing over who should be on the list of candidates. "This is an extraordinary congress ...

you cannot change the agenda of an extraordinary congress," Regenass said.
"I really hope that I can go back to Zurich and bring good news to the

to a mixture of cheers and jeers from the floor. FIFA was forced to step in and order the PSSI to elect a new leadership

FIFA president," he added to Reuters,

team by May 21. In a bid to start again with a fresh slate of leaders, the world body banned chairman of eight years Nurdin Halid, who has been tainted by corruption, as well as Toisutta and

As the "reformist" camp behind Panigoro repeatedly demanded his inclusion on the list of nominees, Regenass reminded delegates that FIFA could not tolerate a runaway league. "This is a taboo for FIFA, you cannot do that. The national association must control its football," he said in allusion to FIFA laws forbidding government intervention into the game.

FIFA could impose sanctions on Indonesia in the wake of Friday's debacle, including a possible ban on competing in World Cup qualification matches.

Indonesia seems to be a long way from its successful time as co-hosts of the 2007 Asian Cup, but the national team's record is poor for a country of Indonesia's size and has also never made the World Cup finals.



World of Soccer - Dandenong Shop 4/119 Lonsdale Street Tel: 9794 5860 FREE POSTAGE ANYWHERE IN AUSTRALIA

www.worldofsocca.com.au

Comets take command as Sandy awaits

By Niki Cook

Round 9 of the Women's Premier League resulted in further congestion at the top of the ladder, with just one point separating the top three sides. Casey Comets and Heidelberg United are separated only by goal difference after both teams celebrated their seventh wins of the season, while Sandringham is a point further back, but will have reclaimed top spot if it won its match on Monday night. South Melbourne Women's and Bundoora United are the next two teams on the ladder, with both also enjoying victo-

Following its surprise defeat by Altona City last weekend, South Melbourne Women's returned to the winners circle on Wednesday night when it saw off the Emerging Athlete Program 4-2 at DISC. The EAP had the better of a goalless first half, but it was South that struck first, with Annabelle Gibney opening the scoring immediately after half time. Genia Avram doubled the advantage nine minutes later, before Gibney scored South's third on 56 minutes.

South appeared to have control of the game, but the EAP then mounted a remarkable comeback, with two goals in four minutes from Kariah White and Tayla Mure bringing the scoreline back to 3-2, giving the development team a chance of sharing the points. That opportunity was subsequently quashed, when Laura Spiranovic restored South's two-goal cushion fourteen minutes from time. The win was South's fifth of the season, and it gives it a firm hold on fourth place on the ladder, while the EAP remains eighth, with its losing streak now stretching to five games. Heidelberg United moved to

second on the ladder with its seventh win of the season, a 2-1 triumph over bottom side Doncaster Rovers at Anderson Park on Friday night. Given her recent form, it was no surprise that Heidelberg's opening goal came from Melanie Camilleri; she found the net in the eleventh minute. Doncaster, however, wasn't going to go down without a fight, and it equalised shortly before the half hour, and so the teams went into the interval locked at one goal apiece. After conceding 22 goals in its opening five games, Doncaster has tightened up its defence of late, and it continued to make life hard for United. The breakthrough came just after the hour, with Demi Mihaloudis scoring the decisive goal to ensure that the visitor claimed all three points. While Heidelberg is second only on goal difference, the story is very different for Doncaster, which is three points adrift at the foot of the

WPL ladder. After a strong start to the sea-



Box Hill's Sarah Walsh (left) and Casey's Aleisha Piper battle it. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Casey's Natalie Grubic (left) and Box Hill's Madeline Richardson indulge in a bit of arm wrestling as they chase the ball. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

son, Bundoora United had a recent slump, losing four of its last five matches, but it got back on the right track with a 3-0 victory over VCL Counhome side took hold of the game early, with Lucrece Laverdure opening the scoring in the fourth minute, with what proved the only goal of the first half. Stephanie Galea doubled Bundoora's score three minutes after the interval, with Tal Karp sealing the victory with a third midway through the second half. It was United's fifth win of the season, and the points lift it to fifth on the ladder, one point outside the top four.

VCL Country remains ninth, having lost four of its last five

Casey Comets moved to the top of the WPL ladder with a 4-2 try at Harvest Home Reserve victory over Box Hill United at on Saturday afternoon. The Comets Stadium on Sunday, but it left it late to claim the points. The first half finished goalless, but the home side broke the deadlock two minutes after play resumed. Casey added a second on 58 minutes and looked to be on course for victory. However, United fought back, reducing the deficit in the 67th minute, before equalising fourteen minutes from time.

With Casey having been reduced to ten players a minute before the equaliser, it seemed

that it was Box Hill that was in the ascendancy. The home side, however, showed great character as it snatched the lead back three minutes later, before sealing the victory with a fourth goal in the final minute of the match. Casey finishes the round on 22 points, level with Heidelberg, but ahead on goal difference. Box Hill, which only lost one match for the whole of last season, has now lost four matches this campaign, and it lies sixth with fourteen points.

The recent rain put paid to Sunday's other match, with the game between Ashburton and Altona City at Ashburton Park failing to go ahead due to the

state of the pitch.

The final match of the round took place on Monday night, with Sandringham hosting South Melbourne Women's at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex. Anything other than defeat would mean Sandringham reclaiming top spot on the ladder, while victory for South would enable it to close the gap between it and third place to a single point.

Round 11 of the WPL begins on Wednesday when the league's two development teams, the EAP and VCL Country, meet at DISC. Friday night sees Doncaster Rovers hosting Box Hill United at Anderson Park, while on Saturday, Sandringham makes the long

Doncaster Rovers 1 Heidelberg Utd 2 (M Camilleri D Mihaloudis)

Bundoora Utd 3 (L Laverdure T Karp S Galea) VCL Country 0

Casey Comets 4 Box Hill United 2

Ashburton Altona City

Doncaster Rovers 1 Heidelberg Utd 5

Casey Comets 0 Box Hill United 2

Ashburton Altona City

WPL LADDER

	г	**	U	_	-	M	ГlS
Casey Comets	10	7	1	2	25	11	22
Heidelberg Utd	10	7	1	2	20	13	22
Sandringham	09	7	0	2	24	7	21
South Melb	09	5	2	2	23	8	17
Bundoora Utd	10	5	1	4	16	10	16
Box Hill United	10	4	2	4	17	18	14
Ashburton	09	3	1	5	13	19	10
Emerging Ath	09	3	0	6	18	26	9
VCL Country	10	3	0	7	11	25	9
Altona City	80	2	1	5	9	18	7
Doncaster R	10	1	1	8	8	29	4

WPL Next Round

VCL Country v Emerging Athlete
DISC - Pitch 1 Wed 1 Jun KO 7:30PM

Doncaster Rovers v Box Hill United Anderson Park Fri 3 Jun KO 8:30PM

VCL Country v Sandringham SC Sat 4 Jun KO 1:00PM

Altona City v Bundoora Utd Sun 5 Jun KO 1:00PM

Ashburton v Heidelberg Utd Ashburton Park Sun 5 Jun KO 3:00PM

Casey Comets v South Melbourne Comets Stadium Sun 5 Jun KO 3:00PM

Altona City v Emerging Athlete Wed 8 Jun KO 7:30PM

WPL RESERVES LADDER

	Ρ	W	D	L	F	Α	Pts
Box Hill United	8	8	0	0	36	5	24
South Melb	7	4	2	1	21	9	14
Sandringham	7	4	1	2	10	4	13
Bundoora Utd	8	3	2	3	8	10	11
Ashburton	7	3	0	4	17	15	9
Casey Comets	8	2	2	4	16	16	8
Altona City	7	2	2	3	7	20	8
leidelberg Utd	8	1	3	4	11	20	6
Ooncaster R	8	0	2	6	7	34	2
merging Ath	0				0	0	0
/CL Country	0				0	0	0

journey to Wodonga to take on VCL Country at Diamonds on La Trobe. Altona City should hopefully return to action on Sunday, when it welcomes Bundoora United to HC Kim Reserve, while Ashburton will hope its pitch is back to being playable as it is scheduled to host Heidelberg United at Ashburton Park. Sunday also sees Casey Comets and South Melbourne Women's clashing at Comets Stadium, and the extended round culminates the following Wednesday when Altona City takes on the EAP

21

Results & Ladders Victorian State & Provisional Leagues - Round 08

STATE NORTH WEST 2 Seniors

Geelong 0 Ballarat Red Dei/Is 2, Whittles a Ranges FC Williams own, Altona Eas Phoenix 2 Altona City 0, Brunsv ik City 3 (G Defeo T Sumbul A Doig) Werribee City 0, Moreland City 1 (D Mg rath) FC Clifton Hill 3 (A Pelia n PJ Grigg J Portillo), Wes gate 4 (A d ivic c V Kalaiy K Otuo-Ab eampong J De Bono) Bany le City 1

Reserves Geelong 0 Ballarat Red Dev Is 4, Whittlee a Ranges FC Williams own , Altona Eas Phoenix 3 Altona City 2 (Y Cas ro J Conroly , Brunsv is City 1 Werribee City 3, Moreland City 5 (N Chapman M Cronin D Sengul 2 L Lub es) FC Clifton Hill 1, Wes gate 0 Bany le City 1

STATE SOUTH EAST 2

Eats ern Lions 1 Morwell Pegas s 1 (C Wy ne), Diamond Valley Utd 0 Heatherton Utd 0, Noble Park Utd 3 Knox City 1, South Springa le 3 Cas y Comets 1, Box Hill United 2 Dandenong City 1, Male m City 2 (1) Fittg erald S Groom) Dona s er Roe rs 0 Eat ern Lions 1 Morwell Pegas s 0, Diamond Valley Utd 1 Heatherton Utd 1, Noble Park Utd 3 Knox City 4, South Springa le Cae y Comets , Box Hill United 1 Dande-nong City 1, Malæ rn City 1 Dona ts er Roæ rs 0

DLFAPT

	Ρ	W	D	L	F	Α	PT		Ρ	W	D	L	F	Α	PΊ
Moreland City	8	6	0	2	28	13	18	Altona Eas Phoenix	7	5	1	1	15	10	16
Whittles a Ranges FC	7	5	2	0	14	4	17	Moreland City	7	5	0	2	30	12	15
Werribee City	8	6	1	1	16	8	16	Werribee City	7	4	1	2	12	10	13
FC Clifton Hill	8	5	2	1	13	6	14	Banyı le City	7	4	0	3	13	11	12
Ballarat Red Deiv Is	8	3	2	3	12	13	11	Ballarat Red Deiv Is	8	3	2	3	12	12	11
Altona Eat Phoenix	7	3	1	3	14	14	10	FC Clifton Hill	7	3	2	2	12	13	11
Wets gate	7	4	0	3	14	11	9	Wes gate	7	3	1	3	9	7	10
Brunsv ick City	8	3	3	2	11	9	8	Brunsv iks City	8	3	2	3	12	12	10
Geelong	8	1	2	5	12	23	5	Williams own	5	2	2	1	6	4	8
Williamstown	6	0	2	4	2	12	2	Whittles a Ranges FC	7	2	2	3	15	15	8
Altona City	8	0	2	6	5	15	1	Altona City	8	1	2	5	11	23	4
Banyı le City	7	0	1	6	6	19	1	Geelong	8	0	1	7	4	22	1

Dandenong City Eas ern Lions 9 18 7 17 2 23 14 16 1 13 12 15 2 21 1 18 6 5 2 18 Eat ern Lions Male rn City 5 0 3 20 16 15 Noble Park Utd 3 21 17 13 Noble Park Utd 13 12 Box Hill United 12 South Springa le 3 12 13 13 2 Dona ser Roers 3 3 18 11 11 Male rn City Diamond Valley Utd Diamond Valley Utd 3 15 13 17 2 17 13 11 3 15 19 11 3 10 14 10 Morwell Pegas s 3 15 12 10 South Springa le 8 3 2 4 13 11 5 10 17 7 2 3 2 8 11 9 8 2 3 3 14 10 8 3 10 7 4 4 Cae y Comets Dandenong City Heatherton Utd Cae y Comets Morwell Pegas s Dona ser Roers 6 7 16 7 24 5 14 22 5 9 22 Heatherton Utd

Knox City

DLFAPT

STATE NORTH WEST 3

Hume Utd 2 (K Pendlebury J Sehi): Cairnlea 1, Keilor Park 3 (G Mus I RR Damianou 2) Sij enham Park 1, Mariby nong Greens 7 Whittlee a Utd 2, Sunbury Utd 1 (I Vine nz) Avondale Heights 1, Yarraiv Ile Glory 2 La Trobe Unite ris ty 1. Melbourne Unite ris ty 0 Geelong

Keilor Park

Cairnlea

Hume Utd

Aw ndale Heights Sol enham Park

Melbourne Unie risty La Trobe Unite ris ty Sunbury Utd

Mariby nong Greens

Geelong Rangers

Whittlee a Utd

Hume Utd 7 Cairnlea 1, Keilor Park 1 (M Mohamed) Sgl enham Park 1, Mariby nong Greens 0 Whittlee a Utd 7 (K Kolege M Paul 2 G Og un 2 G Yildi≵, Sunbury Utd 3 (J Ogle A Gaiz c M Bogle) Ao ndale Heights 1, Yarraiv lle Glory 1 La Trobe Unite ris ty 8, Melbourne Unite ris ty 2 (K Nate da K Robino n) Geelong Rang-

w		D	1	F	Δ	РΤ		Р	W	D	L	F	Α	PΤ
5 3	_		0	13	4		La Trobe Unie risty	8	6	1	1	30	11	19
-		3	1	14	10	15	Sunbury Utd	8	5	3	0	23	8	18
	-		3	17	14		Keilor Park	8	5	2	1	35	11	17
4	,	1	3	11	8	13	Whittlee a Utd	8	5	1	2	27	7	16
3 3	3		2	10	9	12	Ap ndale Heights	8	4	1	3	18	13	13
	-		_	12	-		Yarraiv lle Glory	8	3	1	4	18	29	10
3		2	3	11			Cairnlea	8	3	0	5	16	30	9
3 4	-	٤	3 4	11	10 11	10	Stall enham Park	8	2	2	4	14	19	8
-	,	1		٠.			Melbourne Unite ris ty	8	2	1	5	10	14	7
	4		4		12	8	Hume Utd	7	2	1	4	15	28	7
2 1	-1		5	18	20	7	Geelong Rangers	8	2	0	6	6	21	6
1 4	4	ŀ	3	10	18	7	Mariby nong Greens	7	1	1	5	11	32	4
2 1	1		5	8	18	7	Manby hong Greens	/	- 1	- 1	5	11	32	4

STATE SOUTH EAST 3

Crog on City Arrows 3 (A Cias rella M Rie ra D Brik -ell) Was rley Wanderers 1, Fitz oy City 1 Berwik City 0, Nunawading City FC 1 Penins la Strik rs 2 (A Calder M Demirk I), Old So tb 1 Doe ton 3 (J Ab GS Dai de n M Dai ton City 0

Crowl on City Arrows 6 (C Pow ter AT Gatt H Swami M Gordon 3) Wate riey Wanderers 6, Fitz oy City 2 Ber-wits City 1, Nunawading City FC 0 Penins la Strits rs 1, Old So tb 1 Doe ton 0, Mornington 1 Kings on City 4,

P	w	_	_	•	Α	PT		Р	W	D	_	г	Α	PI
Mornington 8	6	0	2	24	9	18	Kings on City	8	8	0	0	26	8	24
Kings on City 8	5	2	1	17	7	17	Old So th	8	6	0	2	18	11	18
Old So tb 8	5	1	2	16	11	16	Fitz oy City	8	5	2	1	16	14	17
Fitz oy City 8	5	0	3	17	14	15	Berwik City	8	4	0	4	20	17	12
Doe ton 8	4	1	3	15	7	13	Mornington	8	4	0	4	20	18	12
Penins la Strike rs 8	3	3	2	18	25	12	Wae rley Wanderers	8	3	3	2	23	22	12
North Caulfield 7	2	3	2	9	8	9	Crogl on City Arrows	8	3	2	3	26	22	11
Nunawading City FC 8	2	3	3	10	14	9	Dow ton	8	3	1	4	12	12	10
Berwik City 8	3	0	5	9	14	9	Penins la Strike rs	8	2	2	4	9	14	8
Crogl on City Arrows 8	2	1	5	14	17	7	North Caulfield	7	2	1	4	16	18	7
Wae rley Wanderers 8	1	2	5	10	14	5	Nunawading City FC	8	1	1	6	16	25	4
Frank on Pines 7	0	2	5	8	27	2	Frank on Pines	7	0	0	7	7	28	0

PROVI 1 NORTH WEST

3 10 18 5 8 18

PWDIFAPT

Law rton Park 2 Northern Falo ns 0, North Sunts ine Eagles 3 South Yarra 2, Western Eagles 0 Corio 2, Western North City Lions 1, Ea ndon Utd 0 Sporting Whittlee a FC 3, Surf Coats 3 FC Strathmore 1

Bell Park 1 Moreland Utd 2, Elwood City 0 Upfield 3, Hop-

pers Cross ng 6 (A Smart 2 J Nae M å blonk CJ Harding D Gilmore) Melbourne City 0, Lalor Utd 3 Epping City 2, Melbourne Tornado 0 Web Pres on 2 (C Kaloudis WJ Sian anis , Northern Roos ers 0 Plenty Valley Lions 0

Law rton Park 4 Northern Falo ns 3, North Suns ine Eagles 0 South Yarra 2, Web ern Eagles 0 Corio 4, Web a le 0 North City Lions 0, Es ndon Utd 1 Sporting Whittlee a FC 6, Surf Coats 4 FC Strathmore 2

PWDIEADT

PROVI 1 SOUTH EAST

L F A PT 1 35 14 19

1 27 10 13

2 22 12 13 0 15 9 12 3 13 17 11

2 14 6 10

2 12 20

5 11 17 4 6 22

5 6 16

PWDLFAPT

Warragul Utd 2 (T Ahmada i S By r) Springa le City 1, Brandon Park 2 Old Camberwell Grammar 1, Hampton Park United Sparrows Monals Unie risty, Lp. dale Utd 1 Sly Utd 0, Mooroolbark 2 (B Roper B Adam)s Sandring-ham SC 6, Old Melburnians 4 Beaumaris 5

Rie rd ale 1 Monbulk 2, Boroondara Eagles 2 (A De-

P W D

	Ρ	W	D	L	F	Α	PT		Ρ
Beaumaris	8	6	0	2	23	21	18	Mooroolbark	8
Warragul Utd	8	5	2	1	18	7	17	Sandringham SC	7
Springa le City	8	5	2	1	14	4	17	Warragul Utd	7
Hampton Park United	7	4	3	0	17	11	15	Monata Unite risty	6
Old Melburnians	7	3	2	2	22	16	11	Old Camberwell Grammar	8
Mooroolbark	8	3	2	3	18	20	11	Old Melburnians	6
Sandringham SC	7	4	0	3	19	10	9	Beaumaris	7
Monals Unite risty	6	1	3	2	11	17	6	Sby Utd	7
Ly dale Utd	8	1	3	4	11	20	6	Lyn dale Utd	8
Old Camberwell Grammar	8	1	1	6	7	15	4	Brandon Park	7
Brandon Park	7	1	1	5	6	15	4	Springa le City	7
Sby⊫ Utd	8	1	1	6	12	22	4	Hampton Park United	6

Warragul Utd Springa le City , Brandon Park 0 Old Camberwell Grammar 2, Hampton Park United Spar-rows Football Club Monab Unie risty , Ly dale Utd 2 Sk Utd 2 (V Villela P Raffa), Mooroolbark 4 (AW Holly 2 BW Henriques C Andonopoulos Sandringham SC 2

PWD

1

2

6 7 3

		vv	$\boldsymbol{\nu}$	_	г	~	ГΙ			**	_	_		\sim	- 1
Corio	8	6	1	1	20	10	19	South Yarra	8	8	0	0	21	3	24
North Sunta ine Eagles	8	4	2	2	19	12	14	North Sunb ine Eagles	8	6	1	1	27	12	19
South Yarra	8	4	1	3	13	12	13	Surf Coats	8	5	1	2	19	10	16
Sporting Whittles a FC	8	4	1	3	11	10	13	Sporting Whittlee a FC	8	4	2	2	24	15	14
Northern Falo ns	8	4	0	4	9	15	12	Wets a le	8	4	1	3	16	8	13
Wets a le	8	2	5	1	11	7	11	Lae rton Park	8	4	0	4	14	23	12
North City Lions	8	3	2	3	14	16	11	Corio	8	3	2	3	20	12	11
Law rton Park	8	3	2	3	11	13	11	FC Strathmore	8	3	1	4	17	19	10
Wes ern Eagles	8	3	0	5	14	13	9	Northern Falo ns	8	2	2	4	14	32	8
Surf Coats	8	2	2	4	12	15	8	North City Lions	8	1	2	5	12	17	5
Es ndon Utd	8	2	1	5	11	13	7	Es ndon Utd	8	1	1	6	10	24	4
FC Strathmore	8	1	3	4	13	22	6	Wet ern Eagles	8	0	1	7	6	25	1

PROVI 2 SOUTH EAST

Bell Park 1 Moreland Utd 0, Elwood City 1 Upfield 3, marco A Oliveira) Seaford Utd 1, Caulfield United Cobras SC 1 Cae y Kings 1, Kelp orough 2 Endeav ur Utd 3, Uni. of Melbourne 1 (E Hamre) Old Carey 3, Baly de Ar-Hoppers Crois ng 7 (K Shera i 4 L Elmore MA Modowell 2) Melbourne City 0, Lalor Utd 0 Epping City 1, Melbourne Tornado 4 Wes Pres on 1, Northern gonauts 3 Ab burton United 0 Roots ers 2 Plenty Valley Lions 3

Rive rel ale 0 Monbulk 5, Boroondara Eagles 3 (C Pashias Own Goal 2) Seaford Utd 4, Caulfield United Co-bras SC Cae y Kings , Kelp orough 0 Endealo ur Utd 5, Uni. of Melbourne 1 (R Gough) Old Carey 0, Baly de Argonauts 2 Ab burton United 0

	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	РΤ		Р	w	D	L	F	Α	РΤ
Moreland Utd	8	6	1	1	17	9	19	Upfield	8	7	1	0	25	9	22
Wes Pres on	8	6	1	1	16	9	19	Epping City	7	6	0	1	17	6	18
Hoppers Crois ng	8	6	0	2	21	11	18	Elwood City	8	5	1	2	31	16	16
Epping City	8	4	1	3	18	13	13	Hoppers Cros ng	8	5	0	3	18	7	15
Plenty Valley Lions	8	4	1	3	11	12	13	Lalor Utd	8	4	1	3	9	9	13
Upfield	8	4	0	4	15	11	12	Moreland Utd	8	3	1	4	9	11	10
Lalor Utd	8	4	0	4	14	17	12	Northern Roots ers	8	3	1	4	18	21	10
Melbourne Tornado	8	2	2	4	11	20	8	Melbourne Tornado	8	3	0	5	23	26	9
Elwood City	8	2	1	5	16	21	7	Bell Park	8	2	3	3	9	12	9
Northern Root ers	8	2	1	5	11	16	7	Plenty Valley Lions	8	2	1	5	11	21	7
Bell Park	8	2	0	6	15	14	6	Melbourne City	8	1	1	6	8	29	4
Melbourne City	8	2	0	6	10	22	6	Web Prebon	7	0	2	5	12	23	2

Monbulk 0 3 16 11 15 Monbulk 6 5 5 1 28 7 19 5 4 4 3 Kelp orough Als burton United 1 32 19 17 2 19 10 16 Baiş de Argonauts 2 2 20 11 2 1 16 Old Carey Caulfield United Cobras 4 1 15 15 13 Endeag ur Utd 5 5 2 16 7 16 16 12 15 9 7 12 3 Ke**b** orough Caulfield United Cobras Cae y Kings 1 21 14 10 15 16 10 10 12 10 Old Carey 2 11 10 12 4 18 18 12 Seaford Utd 3 0 3 3 3 2 1 Endeaø ur Utd Seaford Útd 4 13 16 10 Bay de Argonauts Boroondara Eagles 8 3 8 1 Rie rel ale 8 0 5 20 17 9 4 12 17 10 4 13 17 8 5 7 21 5 6 10 22 7 5 24 6 6 37 1 2 2 Ab burton United 0 0 Boroondara Eagles Rie rel ale Uni. of Melbourne 0 2 6 37 -2

L F A PT

PROVI 3 NORTH WEST

Balmoral FC 7 (A Da ferovic A Kablar H I& nov c 3 J Avdic S Zeric) Mill Park 0, Brimbank Stallions 2 (SD MN eill D Rodrigue≵ Watsonia Heights 1, Ee ndon Rog Is 4 (J Blano S Mungherli M Strae r A Sirin)
Youth Utd 0, Meadow Park Eagles 2 (P Marak ta D
Magro) Heidelberg Stars 3 (AM Ahmed 2 Own Goal),
Moreland Wole s 3 Darebin Utd 0, Brunw its Zebras 3
Melton Phoenix FC 0

Es ndon Rosa Is

Moreland Wole s

Brunsv ik: Zebras

Heidelberg Stars

Balmoral FC

Youth Utd

Brimbank Stallions

Wats nia Heights

Melton Phoenix FC

Meadow Park Eagles

P W D L F A PT

0 2 23 12 18

2 25 15 16

2 21 12 13

3 17 18 11

2 19 14

3 29 24 5 19 15

1 5 12 23 0 7 2 25 1 7 6 26

7 6

5

8 0

8

Balmoral FC 1 (A Ibrahim) Mill Park 2, Brimbank Stallions 1 Wats nia Heights 4, Es ndon Rosa Is 3 (F Milne R Marb ioli G Apols olidil Youth Utd 0, Meadow Park Eagles 0 Heidelberg Stars 19, Moreland Wole s 4 Darebin Utd 2, Brunw ik Zebras 2 Melton Phoenix FC 3

	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	РΤ	
Watsonia Heights	8	8	0	0	31	5	24	
Heidelberg Stars	8	5	1	2	44	15	16	
Moreland Wolves	8	5	1	2	22	12	16	
Melton Phoenix FC	8	5	1	2	13	9	16	
Brimbank Stallions	8	5	0	3	12	10	12	
Brunswick Zebras	7	3	1	3	17	11	10	
Essendon Royals	8	3	0	5	18	16	9	
Darebin Utd	7	2	1	4	8	16	7	
Meadow Park Eagles	7	2	1	4	5	31	7	
Youth Utd	7	2	0	5	14	26	6	
Balmoral FC	8	1	2	5	10	15	5	
Mill Park	8	1	0	7	4	32	3	

PROVI 3 SOUTH EAST

Baxter 3 (F Beck R Wilson M Fuller) Old Brighton

DAXET 3 (F DECK K WIISON M Fuller) Old Brighton Grammarians 3, Collingwood City 2 (T Taaffe M Fox) Whitehorse Utd 4, Noble Park 4 Old Trinity Grammarians 2, Brighton 1 (A Greatorex) White Star Dandenong 2, Middle Park FC 9 East Bentleigh 1 (L Brooks), Eitham Redback FC 1 Rowville Eagles 2

	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	РΤ		Р	W	D	L	F	Α	PT
Middle Park FC	7	7	0	0	36	7	21	Old Brighton Grammarian	s8	7	0	1	18	13	21
Collingwood City	8	7	0	1	21	11	21	Brighton	8	5	2	1	20	13	17
Rowiv lle Eagles	8	5	1	2	24	15	16	Collingwood City	7	5	1	1	29	8	16
Whitehore Utd	7	5	1	1	16	8	16	Batk er	8	5	1	2	26	16	16
White Star Dandenong	8	4	0	4	18	25	12	Old Trinity Grammarians	7	5	0	2	20	11	15
Old Brighton Grammarian	s8	3	1	4	19	16	10	Middle Park FC	7	4	1	2	15	8	13
Noble Park	8	3	1	4	19	21	10	Whitehore Utd	7	3	0	4	15	16	9
Brighton	8	3	0	5	17	20	9	Rowiv lle Eagles	8	3	0	5	15	22	9
Old Trinity Grammarians	8	3	0	5	16	24	9	White Star Dandenong	8	2	0	6	21	23	6
Eltham Redbak FC	8	2	1	5	11	20	7	Eltham Redbak FC	8	1	1	6	5	16	4
Batk er	8	2	1	5	14	24	7	Noble Park	8	1	1	6	10	29	4
Eas Bentleigh	8	0	0	8	11	31	0	Eas Bentleigh	8	0	3	5	13	32	3



Round 9 Fixtures

All matches to be played on Saturday 4th June with 3pm KO unless otherwise stated

STATE NW 2 Altona City v Geelong
HC Kim Reserve
Ballarat Red Devils v Banyule City Trekardo Park FC Clifton Hill v Brunswick City Kevin Bartlett Reserve Moreland City v Westgate Campbell Reserve Werribee City v Whittlesea Ranges FC Galvin Park Reserve

Williamstown v Altona East Phoenix

STATE SE 2

NORTH NW 3

Cairnlea v Whittlesea Utd

Casey Comets v Doncaster Rovers Comets Stadium Dandenong City v Eastern Lions Frank Holohan Soccer Reserve Diamond Valley Utd v Malvern City Partington Flats Heatherton Utd v Box Hill United Bosnia & Herzegovina Centre

Knox City v South Springvale Egan Lee Reserve Morwell Pegasus v Noble Park Utd Ronald Reserve

Cairnlea Park Avondale Heights v Keilor Park Doyle Street Reserve Geelong Rangers v Sunbury Utd Myers Reserve La Trobe University v Melbourne University

Latrobe Uni Lower Playing Field Sydenham Park v Hume Utd Keilor Lodge Reserve Yarraville Glory v Maribyrnong Greens McIvor Reserve

SOUTH SE 3 **Doveton v Croydon City Arrows** Waratah Reserve Peninsula Strikers v Old Scotch Centenary Park Nunawading City FC v Fitzroy City Mahonevs Road Reserve Waverley Wanderers v Mornington

Carlson Avenue Reserve North Caulfield v Berwick City Caulfield Park Sun 5 Jun 11 3:00PM Kingston City v Frankston Pines The Grange Reserve Mon 6 Jun 11 8:30PM

PROVI NW 1

Hume Reserve, Geelona FC Strathmore v Laverton Park Strathnaver Reserve North City Lions v Western Fagles Northern Falcons v South Yarra Hayes Park
Westvale v North Sunshine Eagles McKechnie Reserve

Sporting Whittlesea FC v Surf Coast RGC Cook Reserve PROVI SE 1 Beaumaris v Brandon Park Monash University v Warragul Utd Monash University

Deepdene Park Old Melburnians v Lyndale Utd Robert Menzies Reserve Sandringham SC v Hampton Park Utd Spring St Oval Springvale City v Skye Utd Ross Reserve

Old Camberwell Grammar v Mooroolbark

PROVI NW 2 Epping City v Hoppers Crossing Duffy Street Reserve Melbourne City v Bell Park Edwards Reserve Melbourne Tornado v Northern Roosters Newmarket Reserve Moreland Utd v Elwood City West Preston v Lalor Utd Oulton Reserve
Upfield v Plenty Valley Lions Gibb Reserve

PROVISE 2 Ashburton United v Keysborough Ashburton Park Casey Kings v Monbulk Betula Park Boroondara Eagles v Riversdale Macleay Park Endeavour Utd v Caulfield United Cobras

Reema Reserve Old Carey v Bayside Argonauts Carey Sports Complex Seaford Utd v Uni. of Melbourne North Seaford Reserve

PROVI NW 3 Darebin Utd v Essendon Royals Mayer Park Heidelberg Stars v Melton Phoenix FC Cartledge Reserve Mill Park v Brimbank Stallions Watsonia Heights v Meadow Park Eagles Gabonia Reserve Youth Utd v Balmoral FC Moreland Wolves v Brunswick Zebras

PROVISE 3 East Bentleigh v Brighton Bailev Reserve Whitehorse Utd v Baxter Terrara Park Old Trinity Grammarians v Rowville Eagles White Star Dandenong v Collingwood City Old Brighton Grammarians v Noble Park Middle Park FC v Eltham Redbacks FC Albert Park Field 16

points away at Sunbury United with a

1-1 draw. Keilor's lead at the top now

is 3 points over Avdonale who remain

in second. Hume United's resurgence

continues with a 2-1 win the massive

Turkish derby against Cairnlea, Next

week's match of the round is again

a top of the table ding-dong corking

crunch game at it's best. Avondale

Heights vs Keilor Park, the two teams

are also local rivals to add some extra

State 3 SE saw the coming of age for

Morington. It seemed like this league

was going to be a 2 horse race be-

tween Old Scotch and Kingston City

but Mornington top the league after

a glorious 2-0 win over Kingston.

Old Scotch could have gone top but

the bourgeois boys went down 3-1

to the proletariat pride of Doveton.

These results have really opened up

this league, Fitzroy City, Doveton and

Peninsula Strikers are all in the pro-

motion battle. Next week there is no

standout game so we'll give match of

the week a miss for this league

spicy to a already very spicy curry.

Weekend warriors in action aplenty!

By Michal Skrodsky

Well K-heads it's been a crazy week in football with all the bribery scandals going on at FIFA and of course the Champions League final, but this reporter is here, like every week (apart from 2 weeks ago) to inform you about something much more important than any of that, the Victorian State and Provisional leagues! So sit back, make yourself a cup of coffee and enjoy this read.

State 2 NW threw up some huge upsets this week. Moreland slumped to two straight losses (after winning their first six) after going down to Clifton Hill 3-1 at home. Werribee went from topping Moreland last week to getting pumped 3-0 at Brunswick City this week. In the huge Altona derby the East side of Altona celebrated long into the night at a 2-0 win over the boys from Cherry Lake. The result of Whittlesea Ranges and Williamstown is unknown to this reporter just yet as the match was played today but if the Ranges won they would be sitting on top spot with 20 points, if not then Moreland would occupy the top of the table with 17 points. Next week match of the round is Werribee City hosting Whittlesea Ranges in a top of the table corker!

State 2 SE also had a upset to the league leaders. Dandenong City, who went down 2-1 at mid-table Box Hill United. The boys from Frank Holohan Reserve must still have a hangover from last week's 6-0 victory. Eastern Lions could not capitilise though, they drew 1-1 with Morwell Pegasus and remain in second, a win would have had the Lions regain top spot. Malvern City managed to bridge the gap on the leaders and sit in third 3 points behind Dandenong City after a 2-0 win over Doncaster Rovers. Next week it doesn't get any bigger than 1st vs 2nd, Dandenong City vs Eastern Lions. Crunch game at it's best, a real 6 pointer.

State 3 NW saw Keilor Park have a great week, not only did they see ofg the challenge from 3rd placed Sydenham Park in a convicing 3-1 win but 2nd placed Avondale Heights dropped



Knox's Mat Evans displays a world class tackling technique against Stemn Jnr Coffie from Noble Park.

gulash over at the Western Eagles 2-0. For Corio, the win opens up a comfortable 5 point gap to second placed North Sunshune. North Sunshine jumped South Yarra into second spot after beating the boys from Fawkner Park 3-2. The league is still very tight, 8th placed Laverton Park are within 3 points of second placed North Sunshine. Since this league is so close not one match stands out as match of the round as each game is a 6 pointer.

Provisional 1 SE saw Beaumaris have consecutive hockey-score line victory, this week 5-4 over Old Melburnians. Old Melburnians honor has not been tarnished, as they almost pulled off the comeback of the year as they were 5-0 down at half time! Warragul sprung over Springvale City and into second with a gastly 2-1 win over Springvale down in Gippsland. This reporter apologises for not having the result of Hampton Park and Monash, if Hampton Park won then they are on top of the table on goal difference to Beaumaris. Next week there is no clear match of the week for Provisional 1 SE.

Provisional 2 NW saw the three big guns of this league win. The biggest win was for Hoppers Crossing, who rebounded after their disappointing loss to Moreland United last week with a 6-0 smashing over last placed Melbourne City. Moreland United got up 2-1 at Bell Park and West Preston won 2-0 at Melbourne Tornado. The top remains the same as last week with Moreland and West Preston only seperated by goal difference with Hoppers 1 point behind in third. Next week it might be worth checking out

Epping City vs Hoppers Crossing.

Provisional 2 SE remains as tight as this reporter when it comes to giving to charity collectors at traffic lights Monbulk won 2-1 at Riversdale and remain on top 1 point ahead of Bayside Argonauts (this week 3-0 winners over Ashburton United) and Casey (3-1 winners at Uni of Melbourne) Caulfield United dropped from 2nd to 4th after a draw with Casey Kings. The gap between 2nd and 10th is 4 points. This reporter again declares of next week's games in ths league as

crunch games at their best!

Provisional 3 NW has seen another week and another win for Essendon Royals, this week Youth United were the victims in a 4-0 hommicide. Moreland United stay in 2nd 3 points off the Royals after a 3-0 destruction of Darebin United. While Essendon were committing hommicide, Balmoral were committing genocide. they absolutely mauled Mill Park 7-0. Husmir Ikanovic bagged a hattrick in that game and ever since round 1 he has been a regular name on the scoresheet, I would guess he has scored the most goals this season out of all the leagues. This week's scores were a bit tame compared to most other weeks but still hade more goals than most leagues this week. Next week's crunch game is Moreland City vs Brunswick Zebras, the Zebras can jump Moreland into 2nd place if they

Provisional 3 SE had the biggest result in the whole of Victoria, if Balmoral's 7-0 win was genocide, then Middle Park's 9-1 win over East

Bentleigh was specicide! But all the talk in the Provisional 3 SE world is about Collingwood's first defeat of the season! The went down 4-2 to Whitehorse United. Despite this result this league remains a two-horse race with Middle Park and Collingwood both on 21 points but Middle Park has played one less game. The world is anticipating when these teams will meet eachother in Round 11. Next week look out for White Star Dandenong vs Collingwood City, the Polish pride of the eastern suburbs has been growing as White Star continue to improve each week and almost knocked off Middle Park two weeks ago, so they would be quietly confident they could cause an upset.

Knox hit the lead with the first strike of the match after Shayan Missaghi

slammed home the opening goal to give the celler dwellers hope.

Like every week I want YOU (YES YOU!) to get down to watch your local team and cheer them on with your hands and your voice, if you care about your club you will get to their game and help your boys!

CRUNCHALOR!



Adem Awel scores for Noble Park in the 82nd minute. Keeper came out Knox City's Kurt Roden being treated by support staff for his brave tackle to return minutes Roger Machado tries to stop his Diamond Valley opearly and Adem, cool as a cucumber, picked his spot just inside post







5-A-SIDE INDOOR SOCCER

LOCATIONS INCLUDE:

CAMBERWELL COLLINGWOOD **CARLTON NORTH VERMONT SOUTH** CAULFIELD

FOOTSCRAY **BOX HILL** PRESTON **HAWTHORN CARLTON** GLEN WAVERLEY ENDEAVOUR HILLS

MENS & MIXED COMPETITIONS 0433 000 444 info@super5s.org www.super5s.org

www.goalweekly.com Monday 30th May 2011

Stars & Sharks Establish Big Break

Sharks have established a commanding 8 point gap at the top of the ladder over the chasing pack following this weekend's round of matches. It is going to take something special from the rest of the pack to reel back this lead. There is still plenty time and lots of points up for grabs, but the way the two leaders continue to steam role opposition teams, the two leaders appear to have a strangle hold on the two promotion places. Four Saturday games kicked off the round where we saw two clubs looking to revive their seasons following the departures of coaches George Karkeletsis and Fabrizio Soncin from Pascoe Vale and Sunshine George Cross respectively. Pascoe Vale duly responded by defeating Altona Magic 2-0, while Sunshine George Cross also recorded a good 3-2 win.

GEORGIES MAKE HARD WORK LANGWARRIN 2

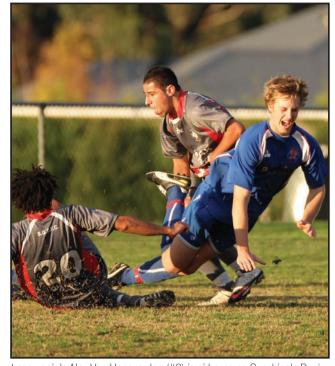
SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS 3

The Georgies went into this match under

joint caretaker player / coaches Con Anthopoulos and Barry Devlin who took on the role from the departed Fabrizio Soncin. The new look Sunshine George Cross team recorded a very important victory down at Lawton Park defeating Langwarrin 3-2. This game was being dominated by the visitors until two defensive blunders by Sunshine's defence turned this game into a nail biting finish. In a very physical first half with both sides having their fair share of possession. Goal scoring chances however were few and far between with defences well on top. Langwarrin looked most dangerous every time they attacked on the right flank, while Sunshine best attacking moves coming from Ben Cogger and Fiachra McArdle. The Georgies took the lead after 34 minutes following a deep corner that was headed home by Barry Devlin. Langwarrin almost drew level after 40 minutes when two rapid shots from Chris Driver and Caleb Nicholes from the edge of the penalty area were blocked by Sunshine defenders who put their bodies on the line. The Georgies were more determined after the break and moved the ball well. Sunshine's Brendan Beni intercepted the ball in midfield and found Fiachra McArlde on the right wing. The little Irishman attacked Langwarrin's defence and shot at goal. The fell to Ben Cogger on the edge of the penalty area who neatly side footed the ball past the diving Michael Suvulja to give the Georgies a 2-0 lead. After 58 minutes the travelling Georgie fans were celebrating again following good pressure by Ben Cogger who closed down Alex Heerwarden. The ball fell to Reg Devani who set up George Slefendorfas with an easy tap in for number 3. Sunshine was cruising and almost out of sight when a Fiachra McArdle's shot was dropped by Michael Suvulja, but was scrambled to safety by Langy's defence. The game looked all over until the 70th minute when Sunshine keeper Mario Roza failed to hold a simple ball on the edge of the penalty area, allowing Chris Driver to swoop on the ball, go round the keeper and tap home Langwarrin's first goal. Two minutes later Langwarrin was back in the game following a high bouncing ball just outside the penalty that was hooked goal wards by Dogan Dagli, Mario Roza was off his line and the ball sailed over his head into the net. The home crowd was in full voice urging their team on in the final 20 minutes. They were almost celebrating an equaliser with 9 minutes to go when a snap shot by Chris Driver hit the outside of the post and was cleared. It was a thrilling end to a great contest with the Georgies holding on to their goal lead for a much needed win.

A WIN FOR NEW COACH PASCOE VALE 2 **ALTONA MAGIC 0**

Pascoe Vale and Altona Magic staged a very fast moving encounter at Hosken Reserve with the home team scoring a goal in each half to secure an important win. The dramatic turn of events that saw the departure of coach George Karkeletsis from Pascoe Vale were quickly forgotten with this resounding win. Pascoe Vale went into this match under the guidance of Vitale Ferante who will be confirmed Pascoe Vale's



Langwarrin's Alex Van Heerwarden (#3) is airborne as Sunshine's Reginald Devani (#20) and Nicholas Scerri (#9) hussle in pairs. PHOTO: DARRYL KENNEDY



Sunshine's Ben Cosser (#14) and Chris Driver (#21) contest for the header. PHOTO: DARRYL KENNEDY

new coach for the rest of the season. Pascoe Vale players were determined to impress their new gaffer and did not let him down. They went ahead after 20 minutes with a goal from Adrian Talarico, but had some anxious moments before Joseph Yousif wrapped up the match with an 85th minute goal to ensure all 3 points remain at Hosken Reserve. Altona Magic played their part in this end to end contest, but the 3rd successive loss has set alarm bells ringing down Paisley Park. The recent poor form has seen Altona Magic slump down to second last place on the ladder. Altona was one of the favourites for a quick return to the V.P.L and was always expected to be amongst the pace setters. There will be many inquisitions held over the coming weeks in a bid to stimulate the team and don't be surprised to see Altona Magic bolster their ranks when the transfer window opens in mid June.

SEVEN SUCCESSIVE WINS FOR FAWKNER BLUES 0 **SOUTHERN STARS 1**

Southern Stars had to pull out all stops to register this narrow 1-0 win over Fawkner Blues at Jukes Road and by doing so kept hold of top spot on the league ladder. It has been a great start to the season for Southern Stars with the team recording their seventh successive victory on Saturday. This was however one of their most difficult matches to date for Southern Stars with Fawkner proving to be more than a match for the league leader. The Blues were the better team on the day and can count themselves unfortunate not to at least take a point from this top of the table clash. The playing conditions at Jukes Road leaves a lot to be desired and it is impossible for any team to play good

football on this pitch. Fawkner must

they have some very good ball players. Southern Stars are of a similar mould and though both sides tried to play constructive football it was frustrating. Fawkner must be ruing not taking the lead in the first half after being so much on top. The Blues were also guilty of missing a penalty kick when Marcus Stergiopoulos failed to convert at a vital stage. Southern Stars coach Dean Hennessey was happy to see his side come in level at the break an reminded his players they are playing nothing like a team sitting in top position. The league leaders improved after the break but never reached the level they have produced this season. The introduction of super sub Noel Fox for Southern Stars had an immediate impact as he provided the former Fawkner Blues striker Chris Greechan with a great cross. The tall striker made no mistake to score the only goal of the game. Fawkner attacked at will in the closing stages and came close several times, but it was not to be. The win ensures Stars remain on top with coach Dean Hennessey heaving praise on Fawkner saying few teams will come away from Jukes Road with maximum points.

love playing away from home because

BULLEEN ARE THE LION KINGS BULLEEN LIONS 3 PRESTON LIONS 0

The battle of the Lions produced the surprise result of the round with Bulleen coming out of their shadow to shock Preston 3-0 at the Veneto Club. Preston Lions' recent revival came to an abrupt against a rampant Bulleen Lions side in this must win game for second last placed Bulleen. The Lions from Bulleen took a first half lead to shock the Preston faithful. Preston answered the challenge by taking the game up to the home team, but their final effort on goal was

Bulleen players (left to right) Hari Vrbovac, Simon Lamanda and Dusan Bosnjak are very pleased about their first half goal. Preston's Rober Najdovdki is not so impressed. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON disappointing. Preston kept the pressure up pinning Bulleen back who was more than happy to soak up the pressure and play on the break. It worked a treat with Bulleen scoring a second following a fast raid that caught the Preston by surprise. Preston had no alternative but to attack all out and once again they were exposed with Bulleen sealing the match in the closing minutes of the match. The win lifts Bulleen several rungs up the ladder and Serge Sabadini side will be aiming to keep the momentum going now they're back on track. The loss was a shock for Preston who no doubt will bounce back to the form of the previous SHARKS STILL SITTING SEC OND

WHITTLESEA ZEBRAS 1 PORT MELBOURNE SHARKS 2 Port Melbourne returned to winning

ways after two successive draws following their visit to Epping Stadium on Sunday. The Sharks got the better of Whittlesea Zebras in a keen contest that never reached any high standard. Port deserved their win because they displayed more composure on the ball and had more purpose and understanding in their play. The visitors took the lead midway through the first half when strong target man Mark Tsiorlas was on hand to tap into the empty net after good work by Niclas Ronne. Whittlesea was having difficulty getting their passing right on the stroke of half time when Taxiharis Apostolikas headed home to send the teams in level at the break. Whittlesea could not have had a more horror start to the second half as they found themselves a goal behind again within 30 second of the restart. A hard low cross from the right wing deep into the the Zebras penalty area was glanced home by Whittlesea defender Lachlan Small to restore the Shark's lead. The opening 15 minutes of the second half continued to be nightmarish for Dom Barba's team as they lost central defender Stuart McCluskey and striker Taxiharis Apostolikas through injuries. Not long after Anastas Kristo also limped off Whittlesea tried desp to restore parity and came close after 75 minutes when Port Melbourne goalkeeper Adam Hrehoresin saved magnificently from a goal bound Vince Faherty header. Port Melbourne was happy to sit back and play on the break. The Sharks had all the answers and looked more likely team to add to their tally. A little more composure in the final third would most certainly produced more goals.

game going, but managed to draw level

Preston's Andrew Branov wins the ball as he and Bulleen's Dusan

Bosnjak seem in sync with the balls' line of flight.

PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

SUBURBS TOO GOOD FOR WAR-**WESTERN SUBURBS 1**

enough to ensure Western Suburbs get

SL1 RESULTS

Pascoe Vale 2 Altona Magic 0

Fawkner Blues 0 Southern Stars 1 (C Greechan)

Langwarrin 2 Sunshine George Cross 3

FC Bulleen Lions 3 Preston Lions 0

Port Melbourne 2

Western Suburbs 1 North Geelong Warriors 0

Pascoe Vale 3 Altona Magic 2, Fawkner Blues 7 Southern Stars 0 Langwarrin 3 Sunshine George Cross 0, FC Bulleen Lions 1 Preston Lions 3, Western Suburbs 1 North Geelong Warriors 0,

Whittlesea Zebras 2 Port Melbourne 1

SL1 LADDER

	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	Pts
Southern Stars	8	7	0	1	15	7	21
Port Melbourne	8	6	2	0	15	6	20
Whittlesea Z	7	4	1	2	9	6	13
Fawkner Blues	8	4	0	4	11	7	12
Western Sub	8	3	2	3	10	13	11
Preston Lions	8	3	1	4	14	18	10
Pascoe Vale	8	3	0	5	12	8	9
Bulleen Lions	8	2	2	4	7	8	8
Langwarrin	7	2	2	3	9	12	8
Sun George X	7	2	1	4	8	12	7
Altona Magic	7	2	1	4	6	10	7
North Geelong	8	2	0	6	6	15	6

SL1 Next Round

Nth Geelong Warriors v Fawkner Blues Fri 3 Jun KO 8:30PM

Pascoe Vale v FC Bulleen Lions Sat 4 Jun KO 3:00PM

Southern Stars v Altona Magic Kingston Heath Soc. Sat 4 Jun KO 7:00PM

Preston Lions v Langwarrin BT Connor Reserve Sun 5 Jun KO 3:00PM

Sunshine George Cross v Port Melb Chaplin Reserve Sun 5 Jun KO 3:00PM

Whittlesea Zebras v Western Suburbs Epping Soccer Stadium Sun 5 Jun KO 3:00PM

SL1 U21 LADDER

	Р	VV	υ	L	г	Α	Pts
Western Sub	8	7	0	1	19	14	21
Bulleen Lions	8	6	0	2	29	11	18
Fawkner Blues	8	4	2	2	21	15	14
Pascoe Vale	8	4	1	3	21	18	13
Whittlesea Z	7	4	1	2	15	12	13
Southern Stars	8	4	1	3	19	21	13
Langwarrin	7	4	0	3	13	10	12
North Geelong	8	3	1	4	15	11	10
Sun George X	7	1	2	4	15	24	5
Port Melbourne	8	1	2	5	9	18	5
Preston Lions	8	1	1	6	13	26	4
Altona Magic	7	0	3	4	8	17	3

all 3 points from their clash with North Geelong Warriors. Suburbs had the mea sure of the young North Geelong side but had to wait a long time for their only goal. Suburbs went close several time in a scoreless first half with the cross bar being struck and Bill Siandis going close with headers. The usual reliabl goal scorer Dimitri Vithoulkas also ha an off day against the Warriors missing the target on two occasions. On anothe day Vithoulkas would have buried thes kind of chances. The longer the gam stayed scoreless the more pressure be gan to mount on the home team. Th goal finally came, and from an unlikel source with Di Marco taking his chanc well to justify coach Huss Skenderovi faith in playing him. North Geelong kep plugging away and it took a magnificen save in the final minutes of the match by Western Suburbs 17 year old keepe Chris Maynard to deny North Geelong share of the points.



















Ashburton's James Blackburn takes a breather as he ran

rampant against Prahran scoring 4 goals for the second

Brunswick's Ruz Roslan was a key figure in his sides

demolition of Melbourne scoring 5 quality goals.





Pascoe Vale FC

6:3 7:1 8:0 8:4 9:3 10:







NIKE PREMIERSHI **Round Four**

THE VICTORIAN HOME OF FUTSAL FUTSAL OZ, 407 VICTORIA STREET, BRUNSWICK. T: 1300 788 799

Top of the table takes shape after Round 4

By Matthew Montgomery

FC Balwyn v Albert Park FC (3-8)

The first clash of the night for round 4 saw the two winless teams of the V-League, Balwyn and Albert Park, do battle in what was a good opportunity for both sides to claim their first points of the season. Balwyn, who had been putting in the better performances out of the two former State League sides would have fancied their chances before kick-off, but Albert Park (a newly formed side) have been gelling together slowly but surely in recent weeks and were not to be underestimated. This seemed to be the case during the match as Albert Park's number 10 Josh Berrios ran rampant, scoring a hat-trick, created chances and ran from box to box in arguably his finest performance for the 'Oranges'. Keeper Fadi Qaquar and captain Jason Ioanidis also had a stand-out performances as Ioanidis bagged another three goals, all while playing the 'last man' in defence for majority of the game. With the score being only 2-3 in favour of Albert Park at half-time, there were good signs there for the Balwyn boys. But when the second half arrived, it all turned pearshaped, as their poor defensive nous and need for a quality defender was exposed. Captain Tony Imeri and Ben Bodo battled in defence, scoring a goal each, but their intent to push forward to supply striker Jason Barrientos (also 1 goal) left keeper Mario Roza without any cover. Manager Matt Obeid needs to address this issue immediately, otherwise getting off the foot of the table will become too difficult in the future. It doesn't' get any easier for the Balwyn lads, as they are due to face a redhot CF Brunswick side in the next round! Overall, it was a good performance from Albert Park, a performance that the young

FC Melb v CF Brunswick (2-9)

side will hopefully build on.

The second game of the night saw two of the more organised and determined sides of the league do battle, as both sides were looking to continue their good form. FC Melbourne, who had just claimed their first win of the season against Albert Park and CF Brunswick, who had many chances to defeat 2011 season title favourites Pascoe Vale. Surprisingly, it was the underdogs in FC Melbourne who took the lead in the first half, as utility Mael Guilliou turned and shot past an un-suspecting Brendan Chen. But it didn't' take long for the CF Brunswick juggernaut to kick into gear, as almost immediately, Brunswick striker Rus Roslan scored a quick brace and set up strike partner Munya Nyadzayo for his first, while the Melbourne boys were left stunned with a 4-1 deficit at the break. The second half was more of the same, as Brunswick were able to do as they please. Roslan added another 3 goals to take his match tally to 5 and Nyadzayo bagged a hat-trick for a combined total of 8! A completely different scenario to last week, when both strikers were held goal-less in the sides 5-3 loss to Pascoe Vale. While CF climb to 5th on the ladder Melbourne are languishing in 11th, as it seems to be back to the drawing board for Chris Gospel and his men. The absence of striker Lee Dore really hurt the structure of the 'dark blues' as forward partner David Fletcher was without as much support While new recruits in Oluwaseun Adeosun and Taye Ajao (1 goal) seemed to stem the flow of Melbourne's usual style as they seemed a little out of their depth. It was a brilliant game from Brunswick

C Essendon v Pascoe Vale (5-7)

The top four awaits.

Even without star player Danny Ngaluafe!

In trying to predict the outcome of the match between Pascoe Vale and Essen-



Albert Park's in form striker Josh Berrios continues his rich vein of form by scoring 3 against Balwyn.



North's stand-in manager Spiro Kargas guides his boys to a hard-fought win over a determined Fitzroy outfit.

don, one would have easily backed the current league champions as run-away favourites to claim the three points. Going against a side that has lost only one game in the last 28 is a hard thing to do, and there is not much faith in an ageing and un-predictable Essendon side. To add to un-predictability of Essendon, Ivan Stevanovic was re-called for his first game of the season, also former Albert Park goal keeper Ned Torbika was recruited. A keeper who hadn't played in the league since the 09-10 season, and what inclusions they were, as Torbika had an inspiring game in goals, putting his body on the line to keep his side in the game. Ivan Stevanovic also scored a much needed goal to level the tie at 5-5 in the second half. The game took a dramatic turn in the after 'vale' captain Andre Caro received an unlikey red card. Essendon sensed their opportunity to strike, as forwards Alexander Stevanovic scored 2 and Dusan Bosniak added a single. The pressure was definitely mounting on Pascoe Vale as the game was on level terms deep in the final stages, but with a strong return performance from Ahmed Azzam in defence, Joao Da Silva and Brenno Polatti adding 3 between them and youngster Richie Ferguson scoring a much needed hat-trick, Pascoe Vale were able to escape (for the second week in a row) with the three points to stay on top of Essendon who, led by the brilliance and run of Dusan Bosniak, are still managing to keep on surprising those who line up

against them.

North Melb FC v Fitzroy FC (4-3) In what was deemed 'match of the round, top four rivals North Melbourne and Fitzroy went head to head to determine who would claim outright third spot on the ladder to be amongst the league's elite. It was always going to be a low scoring affair, between two of the most defensively disciplined sides as goals were hard to come by. It was North's in form playmaker, Tiago Priori who opened the scoring, as forward target, Mirza Pedic laid off the ball to an approaching Priori who broke through the Fitzroy defence to cooly slot past his former keeper in Dianoosh Rasoulzadeh. North continued to dominate play as Adam Cooper struck the post twice in quick succession and against the run of play, Fitzroy scored through Haider Noor to level the contest. But it would be a Shayan Rashidi (set up from a Cooper corner/cross) own goal that would give North the 3-2 advantage going into the break. Upon taking the lead, stand-in North manager Spiro Kargas instructed his disciplined squad to sit on their one goal advantage as the game tightened up. There were goals for each side, as Cooper made it 4-2 only for Fitzroy's steely defender Iman Arjomand to sagain, peg back the score to make it 4-3 with a min-North who are looking good under Spiro Kargas, continue their climb up the league ladder and will be thankful for their recent

red-hot form as they take on Metropolitan next week. As for Fitzroy, one question remains... when they were chasing the game... looking for goals, why was their second top scorer in the side spending so much time on the bench? Cameron Holmes is fit, capable of scoring a bag and has one of the highest work-rates in the entire league! Surely Holmes, who actually scored for Fitzroy, would have had a larger impact on the game had he been given the opportunity.

FC Prahran v Ashburton FC (6-9)

Another game, which had a lot pending on the final result, was the 9:30pm clash between Prahran and Ashburton. Two of the more talented squads in the V-League both are languishing in the bottom half of the table, with Prahran on three points after defeating Balwyn in Round 1 and Ashburton could only manage a draw after three rounds. The pressure was on to perform. Ashburton's wily defender Moe Alghorabi opened the scoring against his former side with a brilliant run from defence to shoot past Jamie Tran, but the lead didn't last long as Prahran's M.V.P Maxi Avram levelled with a brilliant strike. Ashburton's new-look strike pairing in James Blackburn and Simon La Manda looked to be settling quite well as they added three goals between them to leave the score 4-2 at half time. Playing his first ga 'green machine' since round 1, Mark Burton added much needed composure and

who is one of the cleanest users of the ball, had a hand in helping Blackburn to his 4 match goals and La Manda with his hat-trick. Ashburton looked a completely different side! Hopefully they can retain the New Zealand international's services on a more regular basis. As for Prahran, who were without playmaker Marcus Barbosa, have seen their title aspirations fading fast as they are yet to settle. Team captain Maxi Avram led the way for his side with an inspiring 4 goal effort, Ernie Simsek battled and Ben Armstrong played his role off the bench by adding a goal, but the problem lies in defence, as too often, holes were being exposed by Blackburn, Burton and La Manda, Prahran now drop into the relegation zone in 9th position and Ashburton take their place in 7th. Prahran are a quality side and they will bounce back in round 5 to take on Essendon in a

season defining clash.

Hume FC v Metropolitan FC (7-8) The final encounter on the card saw a very physical and hard-fought clash between Hume and Metropolitan. There was always going to be fireworks when two of the most entertaining squads in the league meet, as both sides never shy away from competition. Metropolitan, who were un-defeated going into the game without defeat, were up against a Hume squad which was desperate to improve on their previous week's poor performance against Fitzroy, and in the first half, they did Towering striker Turhan Sumbol opened

2 Metropolitan FC 4 4 0 0 33 22 11 12 4 3 1 0 34 21 13 10 4 3 0 1 22 15 7 9 3 Nth Melbourne FC 4 Fitzroy FC 5 CF Brunswick 4 2 0 2 26 19 6 FC Essendon 4 2 0 2 27 33 7 Ashburton FC 4 1 1 2 25 30 -5 4 8 Hume FC 4 1 0 3 23 27 9 FC Prahran 4 1 0 3 23 29 -6 3 10 Albert Park FC 4 1 0 3 20 29 -9 3 4 1 0 3 17 27 -10 11 FC Melbourne

V-League Standings

NIKE V-LEAGUE RESULTS

FC Balwyn v Albert Park FC	3 - 8
FC Melbourne v CF Brunswick	2 - 9
FC Essendon v Pascoe Vale FC	5 - 7
Fitzroy FC v Nth Melbourne FC	3 - 4
FC Prahran v Ashburton FC	6 –
15 Hume FC v Metropolitan FC	7 - 8

NIKE V-LEAGUE ROUND 5 Wed June 2nd

6:30 Fitzroy FC v Ashburton FC 7:15 FC Prahran v FC Essendon 8:00 FC Melbourne v Pascoe Vale FC 8:45 Metropolitan FC v Nth Melbourne FC

9:30 Hume FC v Albert Park FC 10:15 FC Balwyn v CF Brunswick

NIKE V-LEAGUE Top Goal Scorers

1. A. Redzepovic Metro FC 11 Goals 2. M. Nyadzayo CFB 3. R. Roslan CFB 10 Goals 4. A. Stevanovic FCE 9 Goals

> Catch the **Futbol Town Show** every Tuesday 7pm on C31 and C44 Digital



Photos By MATT MONTGOMERY & THEO SOUFIS

Hume's account with a cheeky back-heel past Dardan Djokaj. Then defender, Nejdet Sahin, doubled the lead minutes after as he ran down the flank to send the ball past Djokaj again into the top corner. Metro had plenty of chances to score, but Hume keeper, Con Makris was on his game making many vital saves. Although it was only a matter of time before Alija Redzepovic eased the scoreboard pres-sure for Metropolitan by slotting their first. After that, the floodgates opened as the half ended 4-4. The second half was a real tug-of-war style affair, with a Nejdet Sahin own-goal being the difference in the end, the 8-7 going to the sky blues. Sumbol was the stand out for the Hume side as he scored 4 for the match, including a goal of the week contender when he dribbled from defence all the way to the 'D' for a cool finish. He was also backed up well by the 'classy' Sahin with 2 goals and a single from Burukhan Koca. Metropolitan FC... Have they finally arrived? Is this their season? For the third week in a row, they have managed to win a game that they were pushed all the way, and unlike last season, they didn't' fold. If this was the Metro side of last season, they probably would have lost a few of their tight games and been 1-3 instead of 4-0. The formula? Scoring defenders! All of Tomo Grgic, Jusuf Avdic and Husmir Ikanovic added a goal to the Metro tally to go with strikers Alija's 3 goals and Irzad Spijodic's single. At the moment, the sky blues look genuine





BENTLEIGH GREENS



SOUTH MELBOURNE



Bentleigh Greens

1. Peter GAVALAS, 12. Adam FADLJEVIC, 14. Aaron WILFORD, 17. Jack WEBSTER, 20. Luke PILK-INGTON, 8. Wayne WALLACE, 10. Alex ROJAS, 16. Ryan DAVIDSON, 22. Stuart NICHOLSON, 23. Ryan DE VRIES, 6. Michael GWYTHER Subs: 31. Luke GAVALAS, 4. Craig SMART, 7. James McGARRY, 24. Declan KEOGH, 11. Scott BULLOCH

South Melbourne FC

21. Zaim ZENELI, 2. Tom MAT-THEWS, 3. Rhodri PAYNE, 4. Steven O'DOR, 5. Daniel VASILEVSKI (18. Marinos GASPARIS 72'), 6. Steven TOPALOVIC, 9. Jean DUBOIS, 11. Jesse KRNCEVIC, 13. Ljubo MILICEVIC, 20. Daniel DRAGICEVIC (25. Kyle JORYEFF 60'), 80. Junior CAMARGO (16. Trent WATERSON 70')

Man of the Match:

Wayne Wallace (Bentleigh)

Venue: Kingston Heath Soccer Complex Date: Friday 27 May 2011

Greens Punish Poor South

By John Kyrou South Melbourne FC has slipped out of the top five following a thoroughly disappointing 1-0 defeat away to the Bentleigh Greens last Friday night.

The result also means that the Greens have overtaken South on goal difference, pushing the Blues down to seventh spot on the League ladder after 14 rounds of competition. The win was Bentleigh's first over South in Premier League competition and was revenge for the 2-1 defeat at John Cain Memorial Park earlier in the season.

South began the match brightly and had several half chances to open the scoring through Steven Topalovic and Jesse Krncevic, with Krncevic forcing a good save from Bentleigh keeper Peter Gavalas.

However it was the Greens who were to break through and score the winning goal after 31 minutes, when Alex Rojas' free kick found Wayne Wallace, who scored a great header past Zaim Zeneli in the South goal. The goal had come against the run of play and even more disappointingly for South was the manner in which the free kick was initially conceded, following a turnover in midfield before Topalovic gave away a needless foul.

The away side spent the majority of the half pressing for an equalising goal whilst the Greens were happy to sit back and try to punish on

the counter-attack.

The home side came close a few times, with the biggest opportunity resulting in Rhodri Payne clearing the ball off the line and out for a corner. South's best chance came from Tom Matthews, who received a cut-back from the right hand and took a first touch to set himself up before seeing his shot blocked by the Bentleigh defence and cleared.

In the end, the full time whistle signalled the end of a disastrous month of May for South Melbourne FC that has seen the Club win only four points from a possible 15, scoring only two goals and conceding nine. For Bentleigh, the result continues their eight match unbeaten run in the League, which has seen their fortunes change significantly since South legend John Anastasiadis replaced Andy O'Dell as coach at Kingston Heath earlier in the season.

South Melbourne FC simply must change its fortunues around this week, with a mid-week match against the Victorian Training Centre on Wednesday night (a venue is yet to be determined by the FFV) before a huge derby match against high-flying Heidelberg United at John Cain Memorial Park next Sunday afternoon. Bentleigh has a week off before playing the Oakleigh Cannons on the Queen's Birthday long weekend.



Greens youngster Luke Pilkington is determined to get past Jean Dubois. Photo: JOGN PUNSHON



Steve Topalovic gets in first but fails to take the ball off Alex Rojas. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Bentleigh's Adam Fadljevic pits his strength against Kyle Joryeff. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS



MELBOURNE KNIGHTS





MATCH STATS: SHOTS: GG 6 MK 8 TARGET: GG 3 MK 3 CORNERS: GG 2 MK 12

Green Gully Line Up: Roganovic, Jones, Drake, Fleming (Downes 87'), Hayne, Fisher, Storey (Hockless 10'), Basma (Sanders 60'), Medjedovic, Vargas, Munoz.

Not Used: O'Farrell, Vizzari

Goals: Storey 3', Hockless 77'

Melbourne Knights Line Up: John, S. Romein, Filipovic, Shin, A. Colosimo (Welmont 45'), Uskok, Magdic, Kozic, Yusuf (Beckit 63'), Zilic (Franjic 85'), J.

Not Used: A. Romein, Stefanou

Colosimo.

MoM: J. Fleming (GG) Crowd: Approx 350 @ Green Gully Reserve

Cavaliers Pounce On Woeful Knights

By Andrew Fisher

Two defensive lapses from the Melbourne Knights has handed the Green Gully Cavaliers a comfortable two-nil win at Green Gully Reserve on Saturday afternoon.

After a promising showing against Northcote last week, the Knights produced a dismal effort this week, lacking any fluency up forward and being forced to chase the game for most of the contest.

As early as the third minute, a defensive error from youngster Adam Zilic gifted possession to Simon Storey on the edge of the penalty area, needing no invitation the former North Qld Fury player clinically finished into the top corner leaving Martin John with little to no chance.

Unfortunately for Simon Storey this was to be his last involvement in the match, as minutes later he was forced off the field after he sustained a knock to his ankle and being replaced by Graham Hockless.

Stand in Captain Josip Kozic could have got the Knights back on level terms in the 15th minute, had his long range shot not taken a deflection off a defender after some good build up play from Josip Magdic.

In the 18th minute, after yet another defensive error from the visitors, Gully striker Brent Fisher was allowed to move freely inside the box and should

pull his shot narrowly wide.

Despite controlling the majority of possession the Knights lacked any potency in the final third, whilst the home side were content with hitting their opponents on the break and exposing their shaky defence. This was evident when a Hockless cross into the area was missed by two defenders, and somehow found its way to the only Gully player in the box in Jonathon Munoz who stuck his effort over the

The Knights' best chance of an equalizer came late in the first half, as Anthony Colosimo worked his way to the by-line and delivered a low cross that would have resulted in an easy tap-in for Kozic, if not for some last ditch defending from Basma to deflect the ball clear.

It was much the same in the second half with the Knights attacking the home side, but breaking down when it mattered most. The visitors clocked up a massive twelve corners for the match, but failed to test Nikola Roganovic in the Gully goal once.

New signing Melvin Beckit returning back to the Knights following a stint with the AIS and Oakleigh Cannons, was substituted on to try and break the Gully line, but the young forward was ineffective against his bigger bodied opponents in Jones and Medjedovic.



Green Gully's Simon Storey scores the opening goal of the match. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

Green Gully sealed all three points midway through the half, when a Graham Hockless free kick from 25 yards on a tight angle, was crossed in and missed by all to bounce and nestle into the back of the net.

The two-nil lead was easily held by the home side, with Lubo Lapsansky's side notching up their fifth win of the season to keep in touch with the top five. Fortunes can change quickly in football, little of two months ago Ivan Duzel's Melbourne Knights defeated the winless Green Gully to put the pressure on Lubsansky's position at the helm, now with Ivan Duzel having being relinquished of his position the Knights find themselves sitting precariously

above the relegation zone, with only two wins for the season.

Next week Green Gully makes the short trip to St Albans to take on the league's bottom team, whilst the Knights will battle fierce rival Springvale White Eagles in a crucial relegation battle encounter at Knights Stadium.



net after Graham Hockless' free-kick hit the spot. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Mile Medjedovic picks up the ball from the back of the Simon Storey is helped from the field only moments after scoring in an eventful but brief afternoon for him. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Green Gully's Jeff Fleming and Melvin Becket of the Knights desperately try to win the ball. Photo: DANIEL FLIS





NORTHCOTE CITY



ST ALBANS SAINTS





Northcote City: 22. Chris THEODORID-IS-PETROPOULOS (GK), 12. Hayden D'AGOSTINO 3 Adriano CHIAPETTA 3. Kristian KONSTANDINIDIS, 13. Samuel TORRENS, 5. Nick TZOULIS, 10. Glen TRIFIRO (8. Nick CURTIS 25'), 23. Jason TRIFIRO, 18. James KALIFATIDIS (17. Gianni DI NITTIS 73'), 7. Jonathan VOULGARIS (19. Dean PIEMONTE 82'), 9. Trent RIXON Unused subs: 1. Charles TREACEY (GK), 16, Paul SAVIO

Goals: Trent RIXON 45+3', Dean PIERMONTE 87' Yellow cards: Nick CURTIS 80', Dean PIERMONTE 82'. Trent RIXON 90'. Chris THEODORIDIS-PETROPOULOS

Red card: Trent RIXON 90'

St Albans Saints: 1. Steven PAVLOVIC, 19. Michael GRGIC (4. Maks CUZE 46'), 13, Neven ANTIC, 23, Tomislav MI-LARDOVIC, 17. Reardo LUKA, 8. Liam CANNELL, 18. Stefan PIORKOWSKI (9. Josip LONCARIC 66'), 15. Louis FEN-TON, 5. Brian CHESSON, 10. Daniel VISEVIC, 11. Matthew DEMO (7. Goran JOZEVJIC 64')

Unused subs: 20. Anthony LONCARIC, 21. Martin HANA

Yellow cards: Tomislav MILARDOVIC 45', Josip LONCARIC 80', Steven PAV-LOVIC 87', Goran JOZEVJIC 90+2'

Man of the Match: Nicholas Curtis Venue: John Cain Memorial Park

Rixon Red Dampens Crucial Win

By Tony Persoglia

Northcote City returned to the winner's circle with a hard-fought win over a dogged St Albans Saints at John Cain Memorial Park on Saturday.

The Saints will rue a lack of concentration at the end of each period, with an added time goal in the first half and another three minutes from full-time consigning them to yet another loss in what has been a disastrous return to the top flight.

After what coach Peter Tsolakis described as its poorest performance of the season, City made three changes to its starting lineup, with Sam Torrens (returning from suspension), Jonathan Voulgaris and Nick Tzoulis all taking the pitch, keen to impress the gaffer. The Saints gave a season debut to Reardo Luka, the only change from a team that was outclassed at home by a rampaging Dandenong Thun-

The Saints settled more quickly in a first-half that failed to deliver any fluency in play, both teams struggling to maintain possession or create meaningful chances on goal.

City were dealt a massive blow when Glen Trifiro was substituted in the 25th minute for what appeared to be a broken toe. The loss of the midfield general forced Tsolakis into a reshuffle and a change to a 4-4-2 formation – and Nick Curtis took his opportunity off the bench to add much needed bite to a lacklustre midfield.

Indeed, his impact was felt after only two minutes on the pitch with a trademark rampaging run down the right flank setting the Saints on the defensive. His cutback failed to find his fellow strikers, but it was a sign of the injection the Blue-and-Whites needed in their play.

The remainder of the half was littered with half-chances, Michael Grgic (29m) and Louis Fenton (32m) with the best of them for the Saints and Curtis with an opportunity outside the box on 31 minutes. A freekick from Jason Trifiro after a foul on Trent Rixon in the 38th minute was as close as anyone got to troubling the scorers, his powerful attempt just wide of the mark.

Ultimately, it was the strike duo of James Kalifatidis and Rixon which broke the deadlock in the second minute of added time, the strapping forward playing his captain through and Rixon calmly slotting the ball past a deflated Steven Pavlovic in the Saints goal. It was Rixon's ninth goal of a stop-start campaign, and gave the hosts the breathing space it needed heading into the break.

A sun-drenched pitch greeted players on the resumption, and the Saints emptied the substitutes bench barely twenty minutes into the half, throwing everything at the hosts in search of an equaliser. City brought on Gianni DeNittis in the 73rd minute, fresh from a mid-season transfer from South Melbourne, to add some fresh legs in the dying stages.

With the Saints pressing, the match was turned on its head in the 87th minute, and the



Northcote's Dean Piemonte puts the icing on the cake making it 2-0, after Trent Rixon opened the scoring. PHOTO: PETER PSARROS

catalyst was the match-sealing strike from Dean Piemonte. who scored his maiden goal for the club after some brilliant lead up work from Curtis and DeNittis.

There was a hint of offside to the winner, and Pavlovic was issued a yellow for remonstrating with the assistant referee as the players prepared for the restart in play. With tempers rising amongst both sets of players, Rixon was given his marching orders by Hakan Anaz after receiving two yellow cards in the space of a minute, the second of which appeared to be for retaliation. In all, seven yellow cards and a red were issued in the final ten minutes of the match, which seemed pretty tame up to that point in comparison.

Northcote City hit the road next Saturday, where Richmond await at Kevin Bartlett Reserve and another win is necessary to maintain pressure on the chasing finals pack. The Saints, still winless this season, will face an in-form Green Gully at Churchill Reserve on Sunday afternoon.









Saints players vent their frustration to referee Hakan Anuz, lead by Tommy Milardovic. Photo: PETER PSARROS

geal

SPRINGVALE W EAGLES



OAKLEIGH CANNONS



1

Match Detail

Springvale White Eagles: 23. Scott AUGUS-TIN, 2. Adam EWIN (22. Stojan MILOJEVIC), 4. Boris BAJIC, 6. Gojko PONJEVIC (21. Dejan ERAKOVIC), 8. Gordan MRDIC (11. Rados TOMIC), 9. Milos LUJIC, 12. Dushan NIKOLIC, 16. Dominic D'ANGELO, 17. Zoran VUKAS, 19. Goran ZORIC, 22. Lewis KARANICOLAS.

Unused Subs: 1. Bojo JEVDJEVIC, 14. Paul MAGHIAR.

Oakleigh Cannons: 1. Peter ZOIS, 2. James CUMMINGS, 6. Ramazan TAVSANCIOGLU, 23. Anthony BRAN, 18. Stephen HATZIKO-STAS, 17. Shaun ONTONG, 12. Luke WALKER, 16. Frankie LAGANA, 21. Hayden DOYLE (22. James DOWNEY), 10. Ricky DIACO (14. Richard OFFIONG), 8. James ROBINSON (13. Billy DAMIANOS). Unused Subs: 35. Daniel NEESHAM, 25. Craig GOODWIN.

Correction: In last week's Oakleigh Cannons match report we stated that Peter
Zois had been dropped for the match.
Peter was however in Canberra completing an Advanced AFC/FFA Coaching Licence.
We apologize for the oversight.
Of course, if clubs were a little more forthcoming with this type of information, then perhaps we wouldn't find out about

Ed.

Cannons maintain top spot

By David Manuca

Oakleigh Cannons kept their place on the top of the Victorian Premier League table after a hard-fought 1-0 win against Springvale White Eagles on Sunday afternoon.

James Robinson broke the deadlock with a goal seventeen minutes from time with the sides fairly even throughout the duration of the contest.

Oakleigh still lead by one point at the top of the table after Hume were also victorious on Sunday with an impressive 3-0 away win over Heidelberg United.

The Cannons had Peter Zois to thank for the win as he made a number of crucial saves in the match to keep Springvale scoreless.

The big shot-stopper missed Oakleigh's game against Green Gully last week but Arthur Papas put him straight back in the starting line-up in place of Daniel Neesham.

Papas made four other changes to his starting eleven with Luke Walker, Frankie Lagana, Hayden Doyle and Shaun Ontong starting in place of Dane Milovanovic, Bonel Obradovic, James Downey and Bill Damianos.

Oakleigh's new signing, Hayden Doyle, was surprisingly given a start over last weeks goal-scorer against Green Gully, James Downey, who started on the bench.

Their other new signing, a former England U20 representative and Newcastle United youth player, Richard Offiong, was given a place on the bench.

The first ten minutes gave us a little preview of what was in store for the rest of the game with both sides attacking with intent.

Springvale had the first real opportunity of the game when a low ball was played into the area for skipper Zoran Vukas but even at full stretch he couldn't reach out far enough to make any contact with the ball

Goran Zoric was a bright spark for Springvale in their attacking third all game and on 10 minutes was awarded with his first chance of the game when he was played in by Vukas but Zois made a smart save down to his right to keep the scores scoreless.

It took until the 21st minute for Oakleigh to register their first shot on goal when Frankie Lagana tried his luck from outside the area but his strike went wide of the left post.

The next chance to the game fell to Springvale when Zoric played a ball on the right for Lewis Karanicolas to chase, and the forward played in a low



Oakleigh's James Robinson celebrates after tapping in what turned out to be the winner. Photo:ANITA MILAS

cross into the area which Milos Lujic was centimetres away from connecting with.

Milos Lujic then had a fantastic opportunity to open the scoring when he was played in one-on-one with a beautifully timed through ball by Zoric, but the No.9 botched his chance with the ball sailing harmlessly wide.

The first-half was at times sloppy and much of the possession was contested in the midfield. Springvale came out of the break switched on and almost scored the first goal of the match instantly.

A free-kick whipped in by Gordan Mrdic was headed towards goal by Adam Ewin but Zois was on hand once again producing a brilliant save down to his left to deny Springvale a goal

But it was Hayden Doyle who really should have done better with his effort after he was played in one-onone with the goalkeeper by Stephen Hatzikostas but he hit his shot directly at Scott Augustin.

Both managers soon looked to their bench for some inspiration and Springvale boss Bojo Jevdjevic brought on Dejan Erakovic for Gojko Ponjevic on 54 minutes then replaced Gordan Mrdic with Rados Tomic on 65 minutes. the cookleigh manager Arthur Papas made Rich

his substitution on the hour mark with new signing Richard Offiong brought on in place of a rather uninspiring Ricky Diaco before bringing on Jimmy Downey in place of Hayden Doyle five minutes later.

The crowd erupted in fury on 70 minutes when Rados Tomic looked like he was going to score after he was played in one-on-one with Zois but the big man rushed off his line immediately to clear away the danger.

The home fans were becoming restless with their side who were just unable to provide that finishing touch on a number of impressive move.

And their misery would be compounded on 73 minutes when James Robinson popped up to finally break the deadlock.

Richard Offiong breezed past two defenders on the left flank before playing a magnificent low cross to the centre where an un-marked Robinson had the easy task of tapping the ball home from right on the edge of the six-yard box.

Springvale pushed hard in the closing stages of the game for an equalizer with Zoric's diving header flashing just wide of the post as well as having a brilliant strike saved by a seemingly un-beatable Peter Zois.

Though Oakleigh also had their fair share of opportunities to double their advantage late in the match with Lagana and James Cummings both spurning great chances.

Richard Offiong looked flashy since coming on as a substitute but would have wished he never came on wher on 84 minutes he hit a shot wide from directly in-front of goal inside the sixyard box.

Oakleigh did eventually put the ball in the back of the net for a second time in the match but it was correctly ruled out for offside by the assistant referee.

The Cannons held on to their slim advantage and keep first place on the top of the table theirs. Springvale however have only one once, against VTC, in their past nine games and still sit in the relegation-zone; level on points with the Melbourne Knights.

Springvale travel to the Knights nex Sunday which promises to be a huge game in the relegation battle whils Oakleigh don't play until June 8 wher they take on the VTC.



Oakleigh's Luke Walker and Frankie Lagana slide in for the ball in front of Springvale's Dejan Erakovic. Photo: ANITA MILAS



Oakleigh's Luke Walker hold down Springvale's captain, Dushan Nikolic to header the ball. Photo: ANITA MILAS

Monday 30th May 2011 29



HEIDELBERG UNITED



0

HUME CITY



3

Match Detail:

Heidelberg United (HU) starting line-up: Griffin MC MASTER, George PAPADO-POULOS (Denis ALILOVIC 75'), Craig ELVIN, Steve MARTIN, Les DOUMBALIS, Hamlet ARMENIAN, Evan CHRISTOUDOLOU, Takanori NISHIMOTO, Andrew NABBOUT, Saso ALEX-OVSKI, Shaun MC ILROY (Jason SAMARGIS 82').

Unused Subs: Jason KOUTSODONTIS, Matt TANCEVSKI, Yarred HAILE-MELEKOT.

Hume City (HC) starting line-up: Lupce ACEVSKI, Steven PACE, Serdar PIR, Philip RICCOBENE (Michael BOSEVSKI, 67'), Isiyan ERDOGAN, Pece SIVESKI, Richard CARDO-ZO, Andy VLAHOS (Zoran PETREVSKI 72'), Atila OFLI, Ross THOMPSON (Dusko DELIC 85'), Mark PISTININZI.

Unused Subs: Adam NA-KIC, Kenny GEROH. Goals: Cardozo 16', Ofli 24', Siveski 81'.

Hume Humble Heidelberg

By Steve Talevski

Hume City has defeated a depleted Heidelberg United 3-0 at Olympic Village on Sunday afternoon.

In a clash for second position on the AVPL table Heidelberg United were without four key players as they were forced to start new signing from Bentleigh Greens Shaun Mc Ilroy.

Yarred Hailemelekot was forced to sit on the bench as he was found not fit enough to start while Osagie Ederaro was out with suspension, Ben Wearing may be on his way back to Gold Coast United and Richard Greer was nowhere to be seen for Heidelberg United. It was a different story for Hume City who gave a start to new signing Pece Siveski from Altona Magic and was able to find himself on the score sheet on his debut.

With the ground not in the best condition both teams struggled to gain control in the early stages of the match.

In the fifth minute Heidelberg's Saso Alexovski forced veteran Hume goalkeeper Lupce Acevski into a solid save from a free kick which went low into his feet.

The match continued to be tightly contested as both teams understood what was at stake.

In the 16th minute Hume's Atila Diego Offi forced goalkeeper Griffin Mc Master to come out of his area to chest the ball which fell to Richard Cardozo who hit his volley in the back of the net despite the scrambling efforts by Griffin Mc Master.

Hume City had there next chance in the 22nd minute as Ross Thompsons free kick saw Griffin Mc Master tap the ball of the cross bar.

Just two minutes later another mix up in Heidelberg's defence saw Mc Master punch the ball out to Ofli who was able to lob everyone inside the box to hand Hume City the two nil lead.

Seventeen year old Atila Ofli has now scored a goal in each of his last three starts as he continues to impress viewers.

New signing Pece Siveski almost



High fives all around as Hume's Richard Cardozo scores the opening goal of the afternoon. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

scored his first goal for Hume City as his shot beat Griffin Mc Master along with the left post from the right hand side of the penalty area just minutes later.

Saso Alexovski had Heidelberg United's best chance as Lupce Acevski pulled a great save with his feet from a one on one on the edge of the box.

Richard Cardozo had a free kick opportunity before half time and forced Griffin Mc Master to catch the ball with his feet which turned out to be a great save.

In a slow start to the second half Heidelberg United found a good chance to get back into the match as Takanori Nishimoto played in Saso Alexovski who made a great solo run to beat Hume goalkeeper Lupce Acevski and the post with a low driven shot.

Shortly after, Hume City's Phillip Riccobene limped off with what seemed to possibly be a slight injury for substitute Michael Bosevski.

In the 68th minute Richard Cardozo almost got on the score sheet

again as his shot was saved by a diving Griffin Mc Master who got some retribution for his two mistakes earlier in the match.

Four minutes later Heidelberg United's Andrew Nabbout almost got his team back into the match as his shot from the edge of the penalty area hit the left post and deflected out for a goal kick.

With 20 minutes to go player coach Andy Vlahos came off for returning striker Zoran Petrevski from an injury.

Heidelberg United continued to look for a goal as Hamlet Armenian was able to lob lupce Acevski but saw his shot lob the goal as well.

Acevski continued to play well as he was able to marshal his defence and come out to punch the ball from numerous crosses.

Pece Siveski got his first goal in Hume City colours as he hit his shot from 20 yards out into the bottom left corner of the goal in the 81st minute.

Heidelberg United were unable to create any chances in the dying minutes and now see Hume City move four points away in second position.

Hume City has the difficult task of hosting Dandenong Thunder on Saturday afternoon at Broadmeadows Valley Park while Heidelberg United visit rivals South Melbourne on Sunday afternoon at John Cain Memoria



Hume's Ross Thompson goes to ground as Heidelberg's Takanori Nishimoto and Sash Alexovski hunt in pairs. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Heidelberg's Steve Martin attempts to clear under pressure from Hume's Andy Vlahos. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

DANDENONG THUINDER



RICHMOND EAGLES



Match Details

Dandenong Thunder: S.Webster, J.Barnes, S.Rexhepi, S.Gray, B.Harrison, A.Tomic, C.Taylor, M.Theodore, L.Sherbon (D.Sabinovski 67'), V.Korcari (F.Azizi 68'), L.Kearney.

Goal: Kearney 90'

Yellow Cards: Taylor 19' Sherbon 57' Tomic 86'

Red Cards: None

Richmond:

S.Gal, E.Karahan (M.Eterovic 85'), R.Antoniaids, M.Bissinger, D.Tsiaras, S.Muirhead, M.Catalano (A.Viola 46'), D.Bonne, A.Kovacic, S.Wilson, M.Ferrante (T.Purcell 82').

Goals: Ferrrante 21' Bonne 45'

Yellow Cards: Karahan 71' Bonne 72' Antoniadis 90' Wilson 93'

Red Cards: None

Eagles Rock to Surprise Thunder

By Mark Boric

A visit to George Andrews Reserve to meet in-form Dandenong Thunder is not the ideal destination for a side enduring a season of struggle, but Richmond may have been buoyed by their record of winning at the ground in the previous two

Conditions were cold, and the pitch was in excellent condition, though fairly waterlogged in

Dandenong made one change to the side which defeated St Albans 3-0, with Jarryd Barnes coming in for Jack Hingert who was selected in the Olyroos squad to play a friendly in Japan on Wednesday. Richmond also made one alteration to the line-up which lost at home to Hume City, with Stuart Wilson taking the place of Timmy Purcell.

The visitors were lucky to weather an early storm, with Thunder threatening to score on several occasions. From a corner kick the ball fell in the box to Liam Kearney who hit a shot straight at Stjepan Gal from close range. Ross Antoniadis then had to slide in to cut out a dangerous throughball from reaching Veton Korcari. In the tenth minute another cornerkick saw Erhan Karahan's sliced clearance tipped over the crossbar

Dandenong maintained their early onslaught, Luke Sherbon having a shot blocked before the ball was squared to Theodore on the left who had a shot saved. In the aftermath of another corner, Wilson had to clear off his line when standing on the post.

Richmond began to create a few counter-attacking opportunities, and won a corner in the fourteenth minute. Stuart Webster spilled the ball as he went to claim it, managing to dive on it to re-gather despite a desperate swing from Karahan to try and nudge it over the line.

A strong run from the half-way line by Dimitri Tsiaras won Richmond a free-kick on the edge of the box in the nineteenth minute, with Chris Taylor booked for his foul. There was a slight delay as Dandenong players argued with

referee Kevin Docherty claiming a free-kick their way in the build-up to the run from Tsiaras, and then again as the defensive wall was set. Eventually Michael Ferrante stepped up to despatch the ball around the wall and beyond Webster low and just inside the post for his sixth goal of the season.

Thunder continued to have more possession, but Richmond were now becoming more threatening on the counter, some poor decision-making letting them down in the final attacking third. In the twenty-seventh minute Kearney rounded Gal but had his shot cleared off the line. Six minutes later Tsiaras slid the ball forward to Devon Bonne who carried it to the top of the box before laying it to Wilson on his right who shot wide from twenty-two yards.

Just as it appeared the score would remain unchanged entering the break, a ball from Ferrante released Bonne on the left in the second minute of stoppage time. Bonne burst past two defenders before cutting inside to send the ball across a despairing Webster and notch his first goal in the AVPL to put Richmond 2-0 ahead.

Michael Chatzitrifonos replaced Michael Catalano with Andrew Viola when play resumed, the young defender adding a stronger physical presence for the battle that lay ahead. After just two minutes his fresh legs powered him through a long run down the middle of the pitch, laying the ball out to Ferrante on his left when reaching twenty-five yards from goal. Ferrante struck a a first-time shot which curled towards the near post before being saved by Webster.

action again, making a save from a header following a corner. Korcari curled a shot just wide of the post after a free-kick saw the ball fall to him at the far post, before he headed a cross from Ben Harrison on the left over the crossbar from ten yards in the fifty-ninth minute. From another corner Gal punched the ball out only as far as Archie Tomic on the edge of the box, who headed back down the middle where Shane Rexhepi headed it on towards goal. Gal scrambling back to tip the ball over the crossbar yet

Gal was soon being called into



Richmond's Michael Ferrante lines up for a free-kick which opens the scoring. Photo: MARK BORIC



Thunder keeper Stuart Webster is beaten after the ball rolled along the inside netting and settled in the goal. Photo: MARK BORIC

Thunder won a free-kick around the box when Karahan committed a foul and picked up a booking in the seventy-first minute. Gal was able to keep out the shot from Theodore, as the home crowd became increasingly frustrated at Thunder's inability to convert their opportunities. Eight minutes later Kearney shot across the face of goal from the right on a tight

Just as it appeared Richmond had secured the win and the gallant Gal a hard-earned clean sheet, a foul by Antoniadis on Tomic gave Thunder a penalty in the ninetieth minute. Kearney stepped up and converted the spot-kick. He had a chance to equalise deep in injury time, with a switch to the right putting him in one-on-one but once again Gal reigned supreme to make the save and earn Richmond all three points in a hard fought 2-1 triumph.

Richmond will now enter a home clash with Northcote City on Saturday hoping their worst moments of 2011 are behind them, with the possible addition of Nick Marinos to their squad should his International Clearance arrive. Thunder will have to trek to fellow Top Five contenders Hume City for another fierce contest on the same day.

St Albans Saints

Alanic VPL Standings

	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	PT
Oak eigh Cannons	15	9	3	3	31	21	30
Hume City	15	8	5	2	32	17	29
Heidelberg Utd	15	8	4	3	35	16	25
Northo te City	15	7	4	4	34	22	25
Dandenong Thunder	15	9	4	2	31	11	24
Bentleigh Greens	16	6	6	4	22	20	24
South Melbourne	15	7	3	5	24	27	24
Green Gully Caa liers	15	6	3	6	28	16	21
Rib mond	15	5	2	8	18	28	17
Melbourne Knights	15	2	7	6	18	21	12
Springa le White Eagles	16	2	6	8	18	41	12
VTC Football	13	3	0	10	14	38	9

Alanic VPL Round 15

Wed 1 u n 8:30PM

V.T.C v South Melbourne

Sat 4 u n 3:00PM Hume City v Dandenong Thunder Broadmeadows Valley Park

Sat 4 u n 8:30PM Richmond Eagles v Northcote City Keiv n Bartlett

Sun 5 u n 3:00PM St Albans Saints v Green Gully Cavaliers Churb ill Sun 5 u n 3:00PM South Melbourne v Heidelberg Utd o hn Cain Memo-

Sun 5 un 3:00PM Melbourne Knights v Springvale White Eagles Knights Stadium

Wed 8 ul n 8:30PM V.T.C v Oakleigh Cannons à & Edwards Ree re

Mon 13 u n 4:00PM Oakleigh Cannons v Bentleigh Greens a & Ed-

Under

	D	w	Г	L F A GD Pt
	Γ.		_	
South Melbourne	14	9	3	2 33 18 30
Melbourne Knights	15	8	3	4 42 20 27
Hume City	15	8	3	4 38 23 27
Oak eigh Cannons	14	8	3	3 37 22 27
Green Gully Casa liers	15	6	5	4 31 25 23
Dandenong Thunder	15	6	3	6 30 26 21
Heidelberg Utd	13	6	3	4 26 23 21
Northo te City	14	6	3	5 25 24 21
VTC Football	12	5	1	6 25 32 16
Rib mond	15	5	1	9 26 47 16
Bentleigh Greens	16	3	4	9 28 41 13
Springa le White Eagles	16	4		11 24 51 13
St Albans Saints	14	1	5	8 21 34 5

Bentleigh Greens 1 South Melbourne 2

Green Gully Cavaliers 1

Northcote City 1

Dandenong Thunder 1 Richmond 2

Springvale White Eagles 1 Oakleigh Cannons 5

Heidelberg Utd 1 Hume City 2

31

Monday 30th May 2011

11 10 37







Support your Passion to MINI

THE ULTIMATE SPORTING DREAM

WIN a VIP Grand Final Package or an Australian Institute of Sport Training Package

WON!

PLUS = MINI = SPOR

with the purchase of 2 Elastoplast products

Promotion ends 30/06/11. See in-store for further details or visit www.elastoplast.com.au for full terms and con NSW Permit No. LTPS/11/01843, VIC Permit No. 11/347, SA Licence No. T11/347, ACT Permit No. TP11/00638

*One per state group.







Visit your local Pharmacy

and buy 2 Elastoplast products then go to www.elastoplast.com.au

to ente